

POPULAR Computing WEEKLY

35p 1-7 December 1983 Vol 2 No 48

This Week

Vic20 software

Gary Thorogood attempts to solve a jigsaw and navigate one of the most hazardous rivers in the world in this latest selection of Vic20 games. See page 16.

Machine code

Trevor Toms looks at the use of arithmetic in Spectrum machine code in the first of a six part series starting on page 23.

ZX81 programming

Andy Wilson introduces structured programming to the ZX81 and explains how programs can be more readable. See page 19.

New releases

All the latest software games including Munnery's Merkatroids and Pawn Chess. See page 68.

★ STAR
Pacman on
Dragon.
See Page 10
GAME★

News Desk

Hungarian dancing monster

COMMODORE'S highly original game *Dancing Monster* for the Commodore 64 is one of the first programs to appear from the rapidly growing Hungarian software industry.

Caesar the Cat, the recent Mirrorsoft release for the same computer, is another Hungarian program.

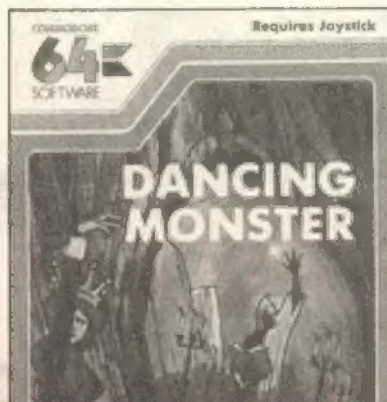
These two games were

among a wide range of computer programs demonstrated at the Hungarian Trade Commission between November 14 and 16. Nine companies were represented at the show — the first exhibition of software by an eastern-bloc company to be held in the UK.

According to the Commission's Benedek Tillai, there are now many computer clubs in Hungary and the Commodore 64 and Vic-20 machines are especially popular.

Novotrade is the most prolific games house in Hungary, responsible for both *Caesar the Cat* and *Dancing Monster*.

Based in
Continued on page 5



Softswitch taken off the market

SALES of the controversial Softswitch add-on for the Vic20 micro are to be discontinued.

The product, sold by the General Hardware Company, allows protected Rom cartridge software for the Commodore Vic20 to be broken into and saved out to tape.

When announced (see *Popular Computing Weekly*, July 14) a number of companies including Commodore, Thorn EMI and Audiogenic condemned the £19.95 Softswitch as an invitation to pirate commercial software.

A hearing before Justice Harman was scheduled to take place on November 29. But, under threat of an injunction, the General Hardware Company has agreed to stop making the Softswitch in return for Commodore dropping the case.

Ironically, even before Commodore's writ the General Hardware Company had decided to withdraw the Softswitch from circulation.

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AQUARIUS
SEE PAGE 55

VALHALLA

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Continued on page 61

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ABC

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Articles which are submitted for publication should not be more than 3,000 words long. The articles, and any accompanying programs, should be original. It is breaking the law of copyright to copy programs out of other magazines and submit them here — so please do not be tempted.

All submissions should be typed and a double space should be left between each line. Please leave wide margins.

Programs should, whenever possible, be computer printed.

We cannot guarantee to return every submitted article or program, so please keep a copy. If you want to have your own program returned you must include a stamped, addressed envelope.

Accuracy

Popular Computing Weekly cannot accept any responsibility for any errors in programs we publish, although we will always try our best to make sure programs work.

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Editorial

Selling micros to the third world appears to be in vogue at the moment. No sooner had Sinclair announced plans to set up pilot production lines for the manufacture of the ZX81 and Spectrum in China, than Acorn revealed its intention to do the same in India.

At first sight, this appears a logical strategy to undertake. Setting up production lines in the third world could substantially lengthen the life of micros which tend to become obsolete within three years of launch. Also, the third world could provide continuing markets for both software and peripherals already developed in the UK and elsewhere.

However, this strategy depends on the third world countries producing and using micros internally. If production lines are set up, but the resulting micros merely exported back to the developed countries of the west, there will be no expansion in the number of end-users, only increased competition among manufacturers.

The indigenous populations of both China and India are extremely poor. Without government aid, only a tiny percentage would be able to afford to buy micros, never mind the televisions needed to act as visual display units.

The third world obviously represents a huge untapped market, but that market may be more apparent than real.

Next Thursday

Can you find the hidden treasure and avoid the Octopus? Find out in *Diver*, next week's *Star Game* for the Spectrum by John Durst.

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BLASTERMIND

At first glance this might seem to be just another version of a very popular game. How wrong can you be!!! True, the start is simple enough. The Spectrum picks a code of numbers or colours with a selection of levels of difficulty — and invites you to do the same. You then take it in turns to guess each other's code from the clue supplied after each guess. An extremely well written, fast and very clearly displayed game, with almost inevitable defeat.

This was exactly as intended but unfortunately something went wrong. During the programming strange complimentary messages began to appear on the screen. At first they were so few they were not taken too seriously, but soon they could no longer be ignored. Somehow the Spectrum had been given a personality — a rather devious, supercilious, dislikeable, hateful, horrible mind.

Side B contains a version of the game compatible with the excellent Currah uSpeech unit — even worse!!

SPECTRUM 48k £5.50



THE QUEST OF MERRAVID

VIC 20 (16k) £7.95
or Commodore 64 £7.95

A really challenging and enjoyable adventure, written by a confirmed adventure addict who grew tired of the ease with which he solved other adventures himself. Will accept and act on sentences containing up to nine words.

The adventurer becomes Merravid, charged with the task of finding, taking and then returning the magic Firestone of the Dwarves. However, overcoming the many novel and original hazards is no easy matter. Careful and imaginative thought is required if progress is to be made and the Firestone tracked down to the lair of the Dragon Thargon. Even then the Dragon has to be defeated and the stone retrieved. A compulsive, extremely enjoyable and very user friendly adventure.



HARRIER ATTACK

Pure machine code, super-fast, action-packed, highly addictive arcade-style game requiring great skill. The harrier takes-off from an aircraft-carrier and flies over seaborne defenses to attack enemy installations on a nearby island. The harrier may fly faster, slower, higher or lower, and has bombs and cannon fire with which to protect itself and make its own attack. If it flies too high it is detected by enemy jet-fighters (which it may counter-attack) — so it needs to hug the mountainous terrain which also varies with every new game. But the island is heavily defended by anti-aircraft rockets and tanks, which again the harrier may counter-attack or try to fly through. A tally is kept of fuel, speed, altitude, ammunition, plus player score and high score. Finally the harrier must make its bomb-run over the enemy base before returning past more hostile shipping to its own carrier.

any ORIC - 1 £6.95
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SCUBA DIVE

any ORIC - 1 £6.95
SPECTRUM 48k £5.50

Pure machine code with super cartoon graphics. You are in control of a diver who must swim down through jellyfish, sharks, barracuda and a host of other under-sea nasties to locate the entrance of a submarine cave. He must then follow its twisting and branching passages which change with every new game, to locate the magical giant oysters with their fabulous treasure of enormous pearls. Many of the passages lead in dead-ends, while some are filled with horrible underwater monsters. Each dive has a limited carefully so that there is enough oxygen left for the return journey, which is further frustrated by the diver's boat shifting anchor and threatening to decapitate him with its propeller. This game which features three divers, player score, high score, hall of fame and sound effects, presents perhaps the ultimate epic arcade adventure.



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BBC in Indian takeaway

THE Indian Government has selected the BBC micro for use in its school and university computer education programme.



Chris Curry — looking for an Indian summer

An initial order has been placed for the Acorn machine worth over £1m. Thirty machines — in the form of five six-station Econet systems — have been presented to the

Indian President Zail Singh by the Queen, during her state visit to the country last week.

Part of the agreement between the Indian Government and Acorn means that a proportion of the BBC machines used in Indian schools and colleges must be manufactured in India.

Acorn's managing director Chris Curry is at present in India, negotiating with a number of manufacturing companies to assemble the BBC micro in India.

Hungarian software

Continued from page 1

Budapest and backed by the three largest Hungarian banks, Novotrade works in close association with a UK company, Andromeda Software. Andromeda's Robert Stein, himself Hungarian-born, explained that the company is at present producing 12 titles every two months which are licensed exclusively to Andromeda. All the titles are written first for the Commodore 64 before being converted to the Spectrum and BBC machines.

As well as writing material for Commodore and Mirrorsoft, Novotrade has done work for Parker Brothers, Spectravideo, CBS and arcade-house Taitel.

Much interest was shown in the Novotrade software shown at the exhibition, because of its original on-screen presentation. Says Robert Stein: "Being Hungarian the games appear refreshingly different." Commodore's software manager, Gail Wellington, commented: "Dancing Monster is very good graphically, particularly in the way the main figure turns."

All of the programs are written by freelance programmers employed by Novotrade, working from ideas developed jointly by Novotrade and Andromeda.

Nearly all of the titles shown at the exhibition have now been sold, and a number of companies including Commodore, Mirrorsoft, Virgin, Thorn EMI, Visions and Intelligent Software (the latter on behalf of Elan) have expressed interest.

Wongs go public

WONGS, the Hong Kong-based manufacturers of the Atari, Acorn, Coleco, IBM Apple and Texas computers, is to go public later this month (see page 15).

Twenty-five percent of the company's shares will be floated on the Hong Kong stock exchange, with dealing beginning on December 15.

The underwritten issue of shares worth HK\$176.25m (£15.1m) values the whole company at HK\$705m (£60.4m). Profits this year are expected to top HK\$75m.

Micronet adaptor for ZX81

THE Prestel and Micronet 800 telephone database systems can now be accessed by ZX81 owners using a new low-cost adaptor from Microcomputer Resources.

The unit is designed to be used in conjunction with any modem which works using the 300/300 baud full duplex or 1200/75 baud standards.

The adaptor is about the same size as a Ram pack and plugs into the expansion port on the ZX81. It, in turn, provides an expansion port to allow a Ram pack or printer to still be connected.

As well as interfacing to a modem, the device contains the software necessary to produce the 40 x 24 character

Prestel format display in upper and lower case on the ZX81.

Using Prestel's Mailbox facility, Prestel pages can be downloaded and saved to tape. Software can also be downloaded and run. Programs not written in ZX81 Basic can still be downloaded and the software in the adaptor picks out the program lines with incorrect syntax and reads them into the ZX81 as Rem statements which can then be edited or rewritten.

The price of the adaptor is £29.95. A compatible modem by Prism is priced at £69.95. Both are available from Microcomputer Resources, 1 Branch Road, Park Street, St Albans, Herts.

Dragon turns turtle

SALAMANDER is in the final stages of developing a Turtle graphics utility package for the Dragon computer.

The program will be supplied both on cassette and on disc, configured for either the Delta or Dragon disc systems.

It will include all the usual Turtle graphics commands, including forward, backward, left, right, as well as extensive library and sub-string handling facilities. Finished shapes can then be stored or combined with other existing designs.

The package will also be compatible with the Oric and Tandy four-colour printers.

The Salamander Turtle graphics package will be available in January, at a price expected to be around £14.

New software at northern show

SOFTWARE provided most of the interest for visitors to the Northern Computer Fair, held at Manchester's Belle Vue last week, 24 to 26 November.

Only two computer manufacturers took the trouble to attend — Oric and Computers, with the latter showing its new 128K Lynx running the CP/M disc operating system.

New Commodore 64 software predominated, with all the major software houses producing something for the machine. Quicksilver showed an impressive music program — *Ultisynth 64*, which is expected to retail for £14.95. *Twin Kingdom Valley* from Bug-Byte is a new graphic adventure for both the Commodore 64 and BBC computers. The program is in the *Hobbit* mould with 175 screens.

Bug-Byte also showed its *Manic Miner* follow-up, *Birds and Bees*, a multi-level maze game for the 48K Spectrum.

ZX Microfak

THE Ninth ZX Fair will be held this coming weekend, December 3 and 4.

The venue is the Alexandra Pavilion, Alexandra Palace, London N22, the show is open from 10 am to 6 pm on Saturday and from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm on Sunday, and entry is £1 and 50p.

Oric disc drive from ITL



THE Byte Drive 500 disc drive for the Oric 1 has now been officially launched (see Popular Computing Weekly, November 24).

A complete system for the Oric including interface, 3 inch disc drive, power supply and disc operating system software is priced at £299. The package will be available in early January.

ITL, the company which has produced the Byte Drive 500, is now working to make versions compatible with other home micros. The company plans to produce interfaces which will enable the disc system to work with the Dragon, Commodore 64 and Spectrum computers, all available in Spring 1984.

THE DAN DIAMOND TRILOGY

My name is Diamond, Dan Diamond, and this is my story. A story of beautiful mermaids, bored robots and dank, dark dungeons. A story that started one muggy day in New York, and like the Big Apple, it's rotten to the core.

The Dan Diamond Trilogy is three separate adventure games. Each game may be played on its own, but clues may be found in the earlier adventures which may help later on. Each game comes with a lavishly illustrated 20-page case file, and hints (both helpful and misleading) which have been hidden in the illustrations.

Part I. Franklin's Tomb, in which our hero receives a mysterious plea for help which leads him to a hidden tomb and the mystery of the stargate.

Part II. Lost in Space, in which our hero finds himself stranded on a derelict spacecraft, doomed to travel endlessly through space, or find a way out.

Part III. Fishy Business, in which our hero lands on a watery planet, discovers the source of the plea for help and saves the day.

All three programs cost £9.95 each and are available for the DRAGON 32, BBC MODEL B and 48k ORIC-1 microcomputers. (note: Fishy Business for the BBC and ORIC will be available February 1984).

It must be the most consistently enjoyable adventure game I've ever played
—Computer Choice
(Program of the Month)

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SOFTWARE

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Look out for Dan Diamond's next Adventure Series "Franklin in Wonderland" Available Spring 1984



LETTERS

Ace users club

Having just read about the very unfortunate collapse of Jupiter Cantab, I was prompted to write this letter.

I feel that the machine has been greatly neglected in both the software and hardware areas. I am therefore interested in starting up an Ace user's club.

I have owned a ZX Spectrum for over a year, so I am not a newcomer to computing. I think a club for this excellent little micro would be a good idea for both beginners and advanced programmers alike. If the ZX-series should have a group, why not the Ace?

Anyone interested in either helping to run the club, or just becoming a member, should contact me at my address.

Phil Murray
91 Killingworth Drive
High Barnes
Sunderland SR4 8QS

PS. I will challenge anyone to beat me at Silversoft's brilliant Orbiter program.

Lost name

Thank you for publishing *Draw a Circle for the Dragon 32* (PCW 17-23 November). My friend and I are very grateful.

Unfortunately, my friend Sean Jones' name was accidentally omitted from the article. I would be very grateful if you could mention him in the letters section of your magazine.

Sunil Singh
9 East Hills
Cranfield
Bedford

No major changes

With regard to the recent correspondence on the contents of PCW, I hope that you will not consider any major changes. What I particularly like is the mixture of news, serious and light-hearted articles. Most other magazines are either wholly taken up with arcade games or else speak in great depth about machines which I cannot even

afford to look at.

On picking up PCW, I generally read the Automata page followed by Ziggurat (sorry about that, Ziggurat). Later on, the puzzle generally comes in for scrutiny.

By all means have an arcade corner, but please keep the balanced mixture which I've come to look forward to.

John Alexander
9 Carlton Avenue
Rose Green
Bognor Regis
Sussex

Don't worry, we plan to keep the balance very much as it is.

Infinite strips

I am writing on the same theme as Martin Castree in Letters PCW 17-23 November, where he outlined two ways of getting high scores on the BBC model B.

I have another method I think everyone should know about. On Acornsoft's *Rocket Raid*, break the program and type in: *Call&E100*. The program will run again, but after the last ship has crashed, the game goes very slow. After two minutes of this, the game will come on again, giving you an infinite number of ships.

This will certainly get you a high score. Another nail in the coffin for having high score tables.

Scott Weir
42 Elie Avenue
Deans
Livingston
W Lothian

High taxation

Has anyone experienced problems with *Valhalla*? The problem I have found is this: You ask Thor (or any other character) to buy a jewel for two crowns. Thor accepts

and you take 50 crowns.

'Great,' you may say, 'the idiot has given me more than he should.' However, if you check what you are carrying (*List*) you will find that only one crown has found its way into your pocket. Is this due to a fault in the program, or is this the going rate of taxation in Asgard?

Mark Vass
Aldershot

This is not a problem I have come across, mainly because I spend most of my time in *Valhalla* either killing or being killed by the other characters. Perhaps some of our other readers can throw some light on the 'going rate of taxation in Asgard'.

Screen copy

I am writing in response to Raymond Blake's letter in PCW 10-16 November, about proving high scores by a screen copy to a printer. I have solved this problem to a certain extent for a 48K Spectrum.

I tried a machine code routine which returned to Basic when a key was pressed whilst playing a machine code game. This worked on some games, but more often crashed the computer. So, I have now altered the routine so it immediately calls the Rom Copy

routine directly when certain keys are pressed simultaneously.

The way it works is to scan the keyboard every interrupt and if the correct keys are pressed then call the copy routine. All this happens whilst you are playing your game. However, there are a few drawbacks:

1. The routine doesn't work on all programs.

2. You need a 48K Spectrum and a printer to use it.

3. The copy routine doesn't work with the bottom 2 lines, so if the score is printed on these it will not be on the printout.

But, apart from these, it does give you proof of a score on the games it works with.

Use the loader to input the numbers in the right hand column, then save the code with:

SAVE "COPY" CODE 65115,36

To use the routine, load it and type:

RANDOMIZE USR 65115

then load your game. If the routine works with the game, pressing H and J simultaneously will copy the screen. I hope this program will be of use to you in authenticating scores.

Karl Hampson
57 Harsnips
Birch Green
Skelmersdale
Lancs WN8 6QA

65115	68
65116	69
65117	237
65118	71
65119	237
65120	94
65121	261
65122	62
65123	62
65124	237
65125	71
65126	237
65127	66
65128	261
65129	237
65130	261
65131	261
65132	261
65133	261
65134	261
65135	261
65136	62
65137	161
65138	261
65139	261
65140	261
65141	261
65142	261
65143	172
65144	14
65145	261
65146	261
65147	261
65148	261
65149	261
65150	261
65151	261

10 FOR A=65115 TO 65151: INPUT N:
POKE A,N:PRINT A,N:NEXT A



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WHEELER DEALER

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VIC 20

GAMES AND UTILITIES

JACKPOT

This is it, the ultimate Fruit Machine for the VIC with nudge, hold and respin 100% machine code. "Overall Jackpot is a beautifully written simulation giving superb graphics, animation and use of colour. In fact, this program makes Commodore's Fruit Machine cartridge look unbelievably cheap and nasty." Home Computing Weekly No. 20 19/7/83 **£5.50**

KWAZY KWAKS

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PACMANIA

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SNAKE BYTE

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COMMODORE 64

GAMES AND UTILITIES

WESTMINSTER

A game for up to four players, can you lead the party of your choice and win the general election, you tour the 60 constituencies (seats) buying votes, when you can, (just like the real thing), this must be one of the first board type games specifically written for the computer. Why play on your own, have fun with your family and friends playing WESTMINSTER **£5.50**

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FOR THE 48K SPECTRUM

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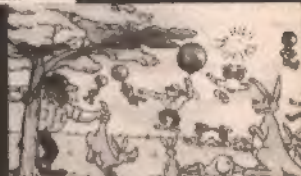
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Munch Man

A new game for Dragon 32 by Richard Dodd

This program for the Dragon 32 computer is a version of *Pacman*. Using the four arrow keys, you must steer your man round the maze avoiding the ghost and eating the dots. The ghosts will kill you if they get you, unless you have eaten a power pill. When you have eaten a power pill, a ghost will be printed in the top left-hand corner. All the time he is there you can eat the ghosts.

Program variables

LI = LIVES
LE = LEVEL
HI = HIGH SCORE
TF = TIME
U = UP CHARACTER
D = DOWN CHARACTER
L = LEFT CHARACTER
R = RIGHT CHARACTER
B = BLANK SPACE
G = GHOST
B1 = BLANK CHARACTER
B2 = DOT
B3 = POWER PILL
B4 = WALL
SC = SCREEN
M = ARRAY CONTAINING SCREEN
D = LOOP TO PRINT SCREEN
A = LOOP TO PRINT SCREEN
Q5 = POSITION OF CHARACTER TO BE POKED TO THE SCREEN
PR\$ = LETTERS TO BE POKED
X = X POSITION OF MAN

Y = Y POSITION OF MAN
X1(0) = X POSITION OF GHOST 1
Y1(0) = Y POSITION OF GHOST 2
X2(1) = X POSITION OF GHOST 2
Y2(1) = Y POSITION OF GHOST 2
TL = TIME LEFT
BN = BONUS
S = SCORE FOR EACH LEVEL
PL = LOOP TO PLAY TUNE
A = CHARACTER GHOST IS OVER

Program notes

1 POKE TO SPEED PROGRAM UP
10-30 TITLES
70 DEFINES ALL VARIABLES
80-90 DIMENSIONS ARRAYS
110-150 READS DATA FOR CHARACTERS
160-270 GETS ALL CHARACTERS
280-370 CREATES SCREEN
380 GET WHOLE SCREEN
400-420 PRINTS SCORES
430 PRINTS HIGH RESOLUTION SCREEN
440 SETS POSITION OF GHOSTS AND MAN
450 STARTS MAN GOING LEFT
470 INPUTS DIRECTION AND ADDS 1 TO TIME
480 CHECKS TIME
490 CHECKS TO SEE IF YOU HAVE ENTERED TUNNEL
510-520 CHECKS TO SEE IF GHOST HAS EATEN THE MAN
530 CHECKS THAT THERE ARE DOTS LEFT
540 BLANKS OUT MAN
550-560 MOVES PLAYER IF A WALL ISN'T IN THE WAY

600 CHECKS TO SEE IF YOU HAVE EATEN A DOT
610 CHECKS TO SEE IF YOU HAVE EATEN A PILL
630-710 MOVES GHOST 1
730-800 MOVES GHOST 2
820-1450 DATA FOR CHARACTERS
1470-1610 DATA FOR MAZE
1650-1700 POKES CHARACTERS TO SCREEN
1740 PLAYS TUNE IF PLAYERS EATEN
1770 TAKES A LIFE OFF
1780-1880 BLANKS OUT GHOSTS AND MAN
CHECKS TO SEE IF YOU HAVE ANY LIVES LEFT
1921 PRINTS SPACE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SCREEN
1930 PRINTS "GAME OVER"
1980-2000 ASKS IF YOU WANT ANOTHER GAME
2030 RESETS ALL VARIABLES
2060-2100 PLAYS TUNE IF YOU GET ONTO A NEW LEVEL
2110-2120 REPLACES MAZE
2130 UP DATES SCORES
2160 BLANKS PLAYER OUT AS HE ENTERS TUNNEL
2190 CHECKS TO SEE WHICH WAY THE PLAYER HAS GONE
2200 PRINTS PLAYER ON THE OTHER SIDE
2250 PRINTS GHOST IN TOP CORNER IF YOU HAVE EATEN A POWER PILL
2300 BLANKS OUT GHOST
2310 PLAYS TUNE
2330 RETURNS GHOST TO CENTRE
2350 ADDS 20 TO SCORE
2390-2400 RESETS THE MAZE

```

1 POKE 55495,0
10 REM *****
20 REM * MUNCH MAN ??? *
30 REM *****
35 PHODE 4:PCLS:SCREEN 1,1
40 CLS:PRINT @ 231,"PREPARING SCREEN"
50 SCREEN 0,1
60 REM *****VARIABLES*****
70 LI=3:LE=1:HI=280:TF=2
80 DIM UC(2),DC(2),L(2),R(2),G(2),B1(2),B2(2),B3(2),B4(2),SC(1000)
90 DIM A(96,7),P(31,15),X1(1),Y1(1)
100 REM **READ DATA FOR LETTERS**
110 FOR CH=32 TO 95
120 FOR I=0 TO 7
130 READ A(CH,I)
140 NEXT I
150 NEXT
170 REM **GET USER DEFINABLES**
180 PR$=""
190 PR$=CHR$(34):GOSUB 1650:GET(0,0)-(7,7),B
200 PR$="I":GOSUB 1650:GET(0,0)-(7,7),R
210 PR$="J":GOSUB 1650:GET(0,0)-(7,7),U
220 PR$="O":GOSUB 1650:GET(0,0)-(7,7),D
230 PR$="X":GOSUB 1650:GET(0,0)-(7,7),A
240 PR$="":GOSUB 1650:GET(0,0)-(7,7),G
250 PR$="S":GOSUB 1650:GET(0,0)-(7,7),B2
260 PR$="B":GOSUB 1650:GET(0,0)-(7,7),B3
270 PR$="6":GOSUB 1650:GET(0,0)-(7,7),B4
280 REM **CREATE SCREEN**
290 FOR D=0 TO 30
300 FOR A=0 TO 30
310 READ A
320 IF A$="S" THEN P(R,D)=1:PUT(A$S,D$)-<(R$+7,<D$+7>),B4
330 IF A$="X" THEN P(R,D)=4:PUT(A$S,D$)-<(R$+7,<D$+7>),B3
340 IF A$="I" THEN P(R,D)=0:PUT(A$S,D$)-<(R$+7,<D$+7>),B2
350 IF A$="J" THEN P(R,D)=5
360 NEXT A
370 NEXT D
380 GET(0,0)-(240,120),SC
390 REM **SCORES**
400 OS=4320:PR$=STR$(HI)+"" = HIGH SCORE SCORE ="+STR$(SC+BN):GOSUB 1630
410 OS=4843:PR$="LEVEL = "+STR$(LE):GOSUB 1630
420 OS=3965:PR$="TIME":GOSUB 1630
430 OS=3969:PR$="END":GOSUB 1630
440 OS=5354:PR$="LIVES = "+STR$(LI,33):GOSUB 1630
450 PHODE 4:SCREEN 1,1
460 X=0:Y=7:X1(0)=3:Y1(0)=1:X1(1)=9:Y1(1)=13
470 B$=CHR$(0):GOTO 510
480 REM **START OF GAME**
490 A$=INKEY$:TL=TF+1:IF A$="" THEN 405
490 B$=A$
495 PSET(50+7,125)
496 IF TL>140 THEN TL=0:LINE(50,125)-(190,125),PSET:GOTO 1740
498 IF P(X,Y)=5 THEN GOSUB 2180
500 IF G$="E" AND TIMER>70 THEN G$="" :PUT(0,0)-(7,7),B4
510 IF X1(1)=X AND Y1(1)=Y AND G$="E" THEN 1740 ELSE
IF X1(1)=X AND Y1(1)=Y THEN E=GOSUB 2290
520 IF X1(0)=X AND Y1(0)=Y AND G$="E" THEN 1740 ELSE
IF X1(0)=X AND Y1(0)=Y THEN E=GOSUB 2290
530 IF SC=<26648> THEN GOTO 2880
540 PUT(X$B,Y$)-<(X$+7,<Y$+7>),B1
550 PUT(X$B,Y$)-<(X$+7,<Y$+7>),B
560 IF B$=CHR$(9) AND P(X+1,Y)<1 THEN X=X+1:PUT(X$B,Y$B)-<(X$B+7,<Y$B+7>),R
570 IF B$=CHR$(8) AND P(X-1,Y)<1 THEN X=X-1:PUT(X$B,Y$B)-<(X$B+7,<Y$B+7>),L
580 IF B$=CHR$(34) AND P(X,Y-1)<1 THEN Y=Y-1:PUT(X$B,Y$B)-<(X$B+7,<Y$B+7>),D
590 IF B$=CHR$(10) AND P(X,Y+1)<1 THEN Y=Y+1:PUT(X$B,Y$B)-<(X$B+7,<Y$B+7>),U
600 IF P(X,Y)=0 THEN P(X,Y)=2:SC=SC+1
610 IF P(X,Y)=4 THEN PLAY"TI080SCDEFG":GOSUB 2250:P(X,Y)=6:SC=SC+10
620 REM **MOVE GHOSTS**
630 X1=X1(0):Y1=Y1(0)
640 PUT(X1$B,Y1$B)-<(X1$B+7,<Y1$B+7>),B

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Go east young man

David Kelly talks to Raymond Yap of Wongs (UK) about the business of manufacturing computers

It takes Raymond Yap less than a minute to drive to his office each morning in his red Mercedes.

He has never walked the distance. As he explains with a grin, his one attempt to jog the route had to be aborted half-way. He blames "unhealthy living" for this athletic shortfall.

As managing director of Wongs International (Europe) he looks after the one European outpost of the far east's biggest computer manufacturer. "Wongs is regarded as the leading and largest circuit-board shop in the far east," he says.

Formed 18 years ago, the company began by assembling transistor radios. Now Wongs makes boards for computers and many other types of sophisticated electronic products.

This year it will produce over 30 million circuit boards. As Raymond points out: "That's a lot of products out there with our work in them." To put that figure in some sort of context, Japan will make about 3.4 million video recorders a year. Commodore, according to Raymond, will make around one million computers this year: "I don't believe their figures of two or three million Vic20s — if that's so, someone must be holding rather a lot in a big warehouse somewhere."

So Wongs is keeping itself busy. The list of manufacturers who use the company reads like a *Who's Who* of computing: IBM, Xerox, Acorn, Atari, Coleco, Apple, Texas, Computers, Torch and Osborne.

The company builds the BBC machine for Acorn — and will soon start production of the Electron. It also manufactures the new 600XL and 800XL machines for Atari, as well as the long-running Atari VCS machine, and makes the keyboards for the Lynx and Torch computers.

"Our speciality is the ability to start up a factory and produce large volume products on schedules," says Raymond. Wongs has factories mainly in Hong Kong and Singapore, but not Taiwan: "Taiwan is a problem — everything you put in there, every machine, gets ripped off."

There is a small plant in the US and the company is looking to add a European factory. "Quite conceivably we will soon put something in the UK — it is an English speaking country with good communications to the other parts of Europe and, most importantly, Britain is my home."

Raymond came to this country when he was 11. Eighteen years later he claims to be "a jack of all trades and master of none". Having sold everything from waffles to double-glazing he has wound-up, after six years with Wongs, in charge of the European operation of a £60m international company.

He is in an almost unique position to stand back and look at what manufactur-

ers are doing. "I have seen many changes in consumer spending."

"The computer industry is just recovering from a big shock. The down-turn in consumer spending during this summer wasn't forecast by companies at all. Texas and Timex got cold feet — they saw sales overall dropping sharply and, at the same time, they appeared to be losing market share. In the US both the TI99/4A and TS1000 (the US ZX81) were regarded as first-generation machines. Because they weren't selling, prices were continually reduced until they were being sold at ridiculous levels."

"Instead, the machines still didn't sell. What now seems to be happening is that a few 'accepted' computers are selling well while the others are doing rather poorly."

"But gradually we are beginning to see the emergence of just a handful of successful computer manufacturers: Commodore, Acorn, Sinclair, and IBM."

"At the moment Sinclair and Acorn have got it right — they have become market leaders without having to sacrifice their profit margins in the way Alan has done."

Trying to reduce production costs to regain these lost profit margins is what has led many manufacturers — like Atari — to move their manufacturing to the far east. And to companies like Wongs. Says Raymond: "Overhead costs in the far east can be manipulated more than in other parts of the world — there are no pension schemes, National Insurance payments and other social commitments to be fulfilled."

Wongs undertakes only a support engineering role for its customers. The computer company provides a specification and Wongs buys in the components and builds it.

The company's experience is in component insertion, circuit-boards, power supplies, key switches, plastic housings and metal stamping. "It is fairly simple for us to design and build something like a keyboard but we are not a research and development house."

"We do our own purchasing of components such as the integrated circuits — and our purchasing power is enormous."

Setting up a production line can cost up to £2m and Wongs works with one line per product. "In the far east we have multi-story factories, separating customers floor by floor. Sophisticated test equipment is used to check completed circuit-boards and automatic component insertion equipment helps cut costs."

Commodore is one of the few computer companies for which Wongs does no work. "Commodore is a peculiar animal — it has decided to carry out its own manufacture to its own needs. This puts financial,



management and planning strains on the company. It is quite an undertaking for them."

"Many of the other companies are getting out of that, just concentrating on the design and marketing of their product."

"It takes an awful lot of money to bring a new computer from the drawing board to the manufacturing stage and it is no longer true to say that there are high sales margins on computers."

What is worrying is that there are some companies which are taking little or no margins — which is a road to disaster — Texas would be one recent example.

"It is certainly not an orderly market place yet, and it will not be for quite a while. Companies are still entering the market, falling over and falling. Once these disruptive influences have disappeared then co-operation between computer manufacturers may be possible, and common operating standards may be adopted. Sinclair, Acorn, Commodore: they are not unrealistic, but unfortunately it is not the right time yet — they are all still jostling for position."

"British designed computers are as good as any other — but the UK has in the past lagged behind in marketing. British manufacturers are still leaders in their technical capabilities and that will continue. People in the US are hoping that the UK companies will go away in time."

"Acorn were lucky. They had a good product and they were lucky to get Auntie's helping hand — but they took advantage of that. The BBC machine we are manufacturing for them for the US is a damn good machine. For \$995 you get a BBC B, plus Econet, View word-processing and an American version of Kenneth Kendall."

"Dragon, Onic and Lynx have had roughly the same opportunity. There was a time when the Dragon was a much sought after computer. But they had a manufacturing problem and their marketing was weak."

"Sinclair, on the other hand, started off at manufacturing 2,000 Spectrums a month. Now they are up to 60,000."

"We at Wongs are a sub-contractor and we have no allegiances. But we have tentacles world-wide and we talk to everyone. It's the same old problem. Taking your opportunities, and following through."

Putting the pieces together

Gary Thorogood examines a bewitching collection of Vic20 software

Despite the popularity of the Commodore Vic20 as a home computer, I have always felt that the range and quality of the software available has, in the past, made it rather a poor relation to the Spectrum. This is, of course, in part due to the system's limited memory. However, things seem to be improving, with more and more software houses producing a variety of high-quality programs for the Vic. The following are a small selection of new and not-so-new games currently on the market.

The first of the batch, *Jigsaw* by Commodore, is for those who enjoy the intellectual challenge of problem solving — mental agility rather than nimble fingers — required. Jigsaw pieces of different colours, shapes and sizes are scattered about the screen and must be reassembled as a perfect rectangle. Movement is restricted, as the pieces cannot cross a set perimeter or overlap one another.

The game has a time limit, so the quicker the fit, the higher the score. When the puzzle is solved, the score is displayed and the next jigsaw appears.

Jigsaw requires a keen mind and can be rewarding when a particular problem is solved. By its very nature, however, it lacks the urgency of traditional arcade contests wherein the player takes on

dastardly invading aliens or man-eating monsters. These are usually set either in a cosmic battlefield, or in an obstacle-strewn maze, and their attraction lies in their addictiveness — the compulsion to surpass one's previous performances. What distinguishes the best of the following games is the programmer's ability in bringing something fresh to the tried and tested formulae.

The most basic of the space games is *Space Travel* by Mikrogen which is based on the familiar idea of destroying ranks of invading aliens whilst avoiding their perpetual onslaught. In this case, flocks of space birds are the enemy to be faced. The game is perhaps best suited to the novice rather than the seasoned space cadet.

As an introduction to the genre, *Space Travel* is fine, if rather heavy-handed in design. The characters are too large and the graphics a touch unsubtle. There are two levels of play, so progress can be made and a fair degree of mental and manual dexterity is required. Although fast and exciting, in my opinion, it lacks the essential element that makes for a really compulsive game.

Ratrace from Commodore (cartridge only) is a much more exciting proposition.

In this game the player is a mouse caught in a maze. The objective is to eat 10 randomly placed cheeses, whilst evading the menacing black cats and energetically chasing rats — and doing so in the allotted time (all to the jaunty accompaniment of *Three Blind Mice*).

Unlike most maze games, you are presented with only a small section of a maze, so any movement becomes a journey into the unknown. To help, there is a small scale plan on the right-hand side of the screen, which not only shows the position of each cheese but also the whereabouts of each rat.

Ratrace is an ingenious game and one that I would recommend wholeheartedly.

Also from Commodore comes *A Menagerie* and *Cosmic Cruncher*. Both of these are available in cartridge form only. In the former, a bug has to move through a spider field without being eaten, pause on a garden wall (which is being inexplicably consumed by an unseen mystical energy force) and hitch a ride on the travelling menagerie of animals finally to score at the top of the screen. The game is designed with three initial bugs and more can be added by consecutive scoring. The





various targets are constantly shifting both their locations and their scoring values. There are up to 10 levels of difficulty, and obviously a fair degree of skill is needed, but I cannot help feeling that I have seen it all before.

The same can be said of *Cosmic Cruncher*, which is a more stylised version of *Pacman*. The graphics are bright and cheerful, and three hundred colour and maze combinations give you the capability of adding extra invisible (and therefore more dangerous) characters.

In this maze-like solar system, the various planets carry different values, and the more points tallied the more adept the *Cosmic Cruncher*.

These three cartridge games are distinguished by graphics of higher quality than that offered by the majority of cassettes. Less desirable is their cumbersome key control arrangement. As always, a joystick would provide greater manoeuvrability.

Bewitched by Imagine is also based on a *Pacman* grid, but has a certain flair which sets it apart from its contemporaries. The elaborate and stylish packaging is typical of the Imagine catalogue. The proof of the pudding, however, is in the program, and here one is not disappointed.

The player is plunged into a land overshadowed by death and famine, having been transformed by an evil magician into a key, and locked within the dungeons beneath his castle. Avoiding a plethora of blood-hungry ghosts and ghouls, you must escape through the correct doors corresponding to your key colour (there are four colours to choose from). Throughout your journey, you are likely to encounter a number of false trails—doors that open on to

brick walls and so on — all of which hamper your escape. As the game progresses, the screen scrolls up to reveal new sections, where the ghouls become even more prodigious and the going gets even tougher.

This colourful game has excellent graphics, is technically very clever and is fun to play. You may choose whether or not to have musical accompaniment — I preferred not to, as the sound of *Green-Sleeves* ringing out not only seems rather incongruous given the setting, but also quite distracting when you are fleeing for your life.

One further point is that the key control directions on the insert card are misleading. On my keyboard, *Q* moves the figure upwards, not *P* as stated. These, however, are minor quibbles. All in all, it is a thoroughly absorbing game and one of the best in this selection.

Frantic, also by Imagine, is a much harder nut to crack. In attempting to bring something new to the world of space travel the game suffers, I think, from being over ambitious. As ever, the packaging is exemplary and the graphics first class.

Your mission is to excavate and mine the many moons of Spectrum (Imagine are very fond of these little puns — remember *Arcadia* where you have to destroy *Alarians*?). At various intervals, you come under the attack of the many alien life

forms in and around the planet. The screen displays a visor through which you can see yourself plummeting towards the moons and a two-way radar indicating the position of the unseen enemy. The game has a time limit, which is linked to a decreasing fuel supply, and points are amassed according to the number and type of alien destroyed.

The instructions state that points awarded for destroying the enemy are an unknown factor and that you have to "hope for the best" when firing. This sums up *Frantic* very well. After many attempts I lost patience and began firing blindly, hoping that I might eventually score. I found *Frantic* bewildering and vague — perhaps someone out there can explain it to me.

On a more down to earth note, the final game of the batch is *River Rescue* by Thorn EMI (cartridge only). As captain of a powerful river boat, you have to navigate one of the most hazardous rivers of the world whilst attempting to rescue three intrepid explorers lost in the jungle and take them to the nearby hospital. There are all manner of obstacles to be shot down or avoided and the winding banks can become so treacherous that plotting a straight course takes all your reserves of agility and skill. There are two levels of difficulty and the game can be played by one or two people. Like *Rat Race* and *Bewitched*, it is a truly addictive game and I'm sure will afford you many hours of amusement.

These then, are just some examples of the variety of Vic20 game currently on the market. Programmers are, on the whole, becoming more inventive and original, graphics more intricate and subtle and games more exciting and compelling. The future of Vic20 software looks healthy — let's hope that the trend continues.

Firm	Program	Cost	Value (1-10)
Commodore Vicsoft 675 Ajax Avenue Slough SL1 4BG	<i>Menagerie</i>	£9.99	5
	<i>Rat Race</i>	£9.99	10
	<i>Cosmic Cruncher</i>	£9.99	6½
	<i>Jigsaw</i>	£9.99	7
Imagine Masons Buildings Exchange Street East Liverpool Merseyside	<i>Frantic</i>	£5.50	7
	<i>Bewitched</i>	£5.50	10
Mikrogen 1 Devonshire Cottages London Road Bracknell Berkshire RG12 2TQ	<i>Spade Travel</i>	£5.95	5
Thorn EMI Thorn EMI House Upper St Martins Lane London WC2H 9ED	<i>River Rescue</i>	£19.95	9

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Monsters spring up and down the screen and can be killed, but they can kill you perfectly well when they land on your head. Skaters slither unpredictably across, and are a real nuisance.

This is an amazingly addictive game. There are five levels of play, and at even the slowest there's enough of a challenge to keep you screaming and shouting. There's a long and varied series of challenges to explore, with many

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The plot is nothing new... in fact, this is really a sci-fi version of the game. You have to charge through a heavily guarded alien base in search of their reactor which has been destroyed.

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An unwritten rule

Andy Wilson introduces structured programming on the ZX81 in the first of a three-part series

The English language contains many words which, if they were to appear upon the pages of this publication, would send many a reader into spasms of angry letter writing. English of course is not unique in this respect. French, German, Chinese and Serbo-Croatian, they all have their 'taboo' words and phrases.

Most programming languages, however, appear to ignore this unwritten rule. If a word is there, it is there to be used.

Algo 60 (the original version of the language) is one exception. Although the Goto statement is supported, its use is frowned upon by most programmers. It goes against all the principles of that great cult, Structured Programming.

The home computing press is very fond of the phrase, but hardly ever bothers to explain exactly what is Structured Programming. I aim to give the reader a rough

idea of the underlying concepts and, by introducing a few new Basic commands, show how ZX81 programs can be made much more readable. Although the programs and machine code routines will be specific to the humble Sinclair machine, many of the ideas will be useful to owners of other computers.

As you probably realise, readability is the most important idea behind Structured Programming. One of the biggest problems facing commercial programmers is deciphering other people's programs. In the commercial world, more time is spent amending and debugging old programs than writing new ones, so readability is very important.

A well structured program should reflect the thinking behind it. It should, where possible, be divided into natural "blocks", where each block contains the code for

one process.

The problem with the Goto is that, when we make a decision in the real world, we usually decide on a complete course of action. For example, suppose you are sitting in your favourite armchair reading the latest PCW when you hear a bell. There are two possibilities, it could be the doorbell or the telephone. What should you do?

In Basic the problem could be written as follows:

```
10 IF DOORBELL THEN GOTO 100
20 Code for answering phone
```

```
90 GOTO 200
100 Code for answering door
```

200 Rest of program

A slight improvement would be to use Gosubs. This is like having a notebook containing instructions on how to answer the door or telephone and, when you have decided which bell is ringing, choosing the appropriate page number to find out what to do next. Surely, it would be better if we could write:

```
10 IF DOORBELL THEN ANSWERDOOR
20 IF PHONEBELL THEN ANSWERPHONE
```

LISTING 1

HEX-LOADER

```
100 LET L=16514
20 INPUT US
30 IF US=5 THEN STOP
40 SCROLL
50 PRINT L:TAB 7;
60 PRINT US:TO 10;
70 POKE L,16+CODE US+CODE US*2
L=L+1
80 LET US=US*10 TO 10
90 LET L=L+1
100 IF US=5 THEN GOTO 60
110 GOTO 20
```

LISTING 2

HEX-DUMP

```
1 100 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
2 101 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
3 102 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
4 103 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
5 104 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
6 105 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
7 106 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
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99 198 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
100 199 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
```

ENTER "S" TO STOP LOADER

Continued on page 21

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PROGRAMMING

or even better:

```
10 IF DOORBELL THEN ANSWERDOOR ELSE
   ANSWERPHONE
```

This can be done in many languages, including Algol, Pascal and BBC Basic. It is done using a structure called the *Procedure*.

A *Procedure* is a bit like a *Gosub* routine, but is called by a name rather than a line number. In Algol the procedure for answering the phone would be defined as follows:

```
PROCEDURE ANSWERPHONE;
BEGIN
  Code for answering 'phone
END;
```

and thereafter any reference to *Answerphone* would execute the procedure. Similarly, in BBC Basic we could write:

```
100 DEFPROC ANSWERPHONE
   Code for answering 'phone
```

```
200 ENDPROC
```

and the procedure would be called by the statement *Proc Answerphone*.

To see the effect this has on readability, find a listing of a program written for the BBC which avoids the use of *Gotos* and *Gosubs*, and compare it with a program written for another, unfamiliar micro.

There is another occasion on which the *Goto* is often used. Suppose you are still sitting in your chair reading PCW, but this time you are expecting a telephone call. You want to carry on reading until the telephone rings. How could this be modelled in Basic? The usual way would be to write:

```
10 Code for reading PCW
```

```
■ IF NOT PHONE THEN GOTO 10
```

This is like saying, "I will carry on reading but now and then I will check to see if the telephone is ringing. If it isn't, I will go back to my reading."

A better model could be written using a structure found in many Basics, including of course that on the BBC. This is the *Repeat-Until* loop. It is usually used as follows:

```
10 REPEAT
20 Code for reading PCW
```

50 UNTIL PHONE

It should be immediately obvious how this is a much more accurate model of the original problem.

Now to get more machine specific. The accompanying machine code routines allow *Procedures* and *Repeat-Until* loops to be used on the 16K ZX81.

The code is in a Rem line, so the first thing to do is to create a line, 1 Rem... containing 465 characters. The most straightforward way to do this is to simply type it in directly (in *Fast* mode). Each line has 32 characters, so you need 14 lines, including the first one, with a 15th line of 23 characters only. If you have got it right, Peek 16511 will be 211.

Other people have their own favourite methods but I tend to rely on the old-fashioned way, or I use an assembler which does it for you anyway.

When you have a perfect Rem line, enter the hex loader in listing 1. Next comes the boring bit, listing 2 is a hex-dump which all needs to be *Poked* into the Rem line using the aforementioned loader.

Check the numbers carefully against the listing as you enter them — it is best to enter a whole line, five bytes at a time. If you notice a mistake after pressing *New-line*, note the address and *Poke* the correct number in when you have finished (if you are not sure how to convert from hex to decimal, look at line 70).

When you are satisfied you have entered the machine code correctly, delete the loader program line by line. Now enter the Basic program in listing 3. This effectively defines the words to be used as new Basic commands. After entering the first line (line 10), type as direct commands, List 10, followed by *Poke 16419,10*. If you fail to do this, whatever you type in, only line 1 will appear on screen.

The program is now more or less ready to use. It would be nice, though, if we could make it all "invisible" and undeletable. Surprise, surprise, we can!

All we have to do is change all of the line numbers to 0. Presuming your Rem line is the right length, the addresses to be *Poked* are as follows: 16510, 16981, 17005, 17028, 17051, 17076, 17101, 17127 and

17154.

When you have *Poked* all of these with 0, enter 10 Rem *Structured Programming*, followed by, once again, List 10, *Poke 16419,10*. Now Save the program on tape.

The new commands are listed in listing 4. Note that commands (ii) and (iii) are always used together. Procedure names should be as self-explanatory as possible and should be reserved for this purpose only.

The error messages are more or less self-explanatory, but it should be noted that the line numbers often refer to the line that 'finds' the error, rather than the actual error.

Limitations to use

As mentioned previously, variables used as procedure names should not be used for any other purpose within the program. If other machine code routines are used and given 'names', these 'names' should not begin with E or D.

Unfortunately, procedures cannot be nested, ie, one procedure cannot be defined within another. This is because the nested procedure would remain undefined until the outer procedure was called.

The condition after *Until* should be Boolean, ie, it should result in an answer of 1 or 0.

Both *Repeat-Until* loops and procedure calls can only be nested up to five deep, as they rely on special stacks of fixed size. *Scroll* should be used with care. If the display file is upset, the error message routine may cause a system crash. It is best to follow *Scroll* with:

```
PRINT TAB 31;"space"
```

An example of how to use the procedure routines is given in listing 5. This is the program used to produce the hex-dump in listing 2.

Remember, the whole idea is to make the program as readable as possible, so use meaningful names and try to separate blocks of program using empty Rem statements. Make liberal use of proper Rems as headings to explain the program, and try not to worry too much about memory — if you've got it, use it!

LISTING 3

BASIC

1000

```
10 LET REPEAT=16336
20 LET UNTIL=16593
30 LET CHECK=16626
40 LET DEFPROC=16726
50 LET ENDPROC=16882
60 LET CALLPROC=16981
70 POKE 16587,239
80 POKE 16417,140
```

LISTING 4

COMMANDS USED

```
II) RAND USR REPEAT
III) POKE UNTIL, (CONDITION)
III) RAND USR CHECK
```

```
10) LET (NAME)=USR DEFPROC
11) RAND USR ENDPROC
12) LET (NAME)=USR CALLPROC
```

LISTING 5

HEX-DUMPER

```
100 LET REPEAT=USR DEFPROC
200 LET REPEAT=1440
300 LET COUNT=1440
400 LET ADDR=16510
500 PRINT CHR$(16+26)*CHR$(19+2)
600 RAND USR ENDPROC
700 REM
1000 FOR I=16514 TO 17154 STEP 5
1100 PRINT I,TOB I
1200 FOR J=1 TO 4
1300 LET I=CALLPROC USR CALLPROC
1400 LET I=CALLPROC THEN STOP
1500 NEXT J
1600 PRINT TAB 8;
1700 NEXT I
```

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Welcome to the machine

In response to popular demand, at long last the machine code series you have been waiting for. Part one of six

This series is aimed at the Spectrum owner who wants to progress his or her machine code beyond the level of beginner's books. It will not teach you how to use the various codes — I assume that you have already reached this stage — but it will show you how you can include them in routines of your own by giving many working examples.

Of the many requests that are made of me (most of which are physically impossible), one of the most common is to give details of Spectrum Rom entry points, so that machine code programs can be kept as small as possible and also ensure that they work quickly. This series will hopefully give you some working tools to include in your programs — some using the Rom, and some not.

All the way through the series, I assume the use of an assembler, such as that published in the *Spectrum Pocket Book*, although most assemblers that handle symbols will suffice. There are very good reasons for this. First of all, from my own point of view, I resent converting mnemonics into hex (or even worse, decimal!) when the Spectrum is perfectly capable of doing the job for me.

Secondly, any serious programmer will want to be able to alter any routine quickly and easily. If you have entered a routine in hex, you must either leave "gaps" in the program to allow for corrections, or recalculate your "jump" addresses when

you want to add in a new instruction. An assembler does away with all this.

Throughout the series we'll be looking at topics ranging from "transferring from Basic" where you can see how some of the familiar Basic functions can be undertaken in machine code, to making use of the Spectrum facilities (display, colour, sound, graphics, keyboard, etc). Later on, you'll see how you can use interrupts to allow continuous sound and action.

This week's lesson is something rather basic (sorry) but nevertheless, very important to beginners — the use of arithmetic within machine code. Addition and subtraction are no real problem, since the Z80 includes instructions to handle these directly, whether in 8 or 16-bit form:

ADD HL,DE adds the 16-bit value in DE to HL.
SBC HL,DE subtracts the 16-bit value in DE from HL.
(including carry, if set).

However, multiplication and division represent a real challenge. The two routines listed will do this for you — 16-bit multiplication and division. Both routines are relocatable (for those non-Assembler users) and re-entrant (for those "interrupt mode 2" fanatics) and in both cases, the values in DE and HL are used, leaving the result in registers HL. As a real bonus, the division routine leaves the remainder in registers DE. This makes it simple to simulate the "mod" function found in Microsoft Basic, or to write

the equivalent of:

```
IF x<>y:INT(x/y)
```

... in machine code. It does make the routine slightly longer than a normal division subroutine, but it's well worth the extra power that it gives you.

As an example, the following few lines show you how to use these routines in your own programs:

```
LD HL,5
LD DE,27
CALL MUL16 gives 5 * 27 = 162 in HL
LD DE,4
CALL DIV16 gives 162/4 = 40 in HL and remainder 2 in DE
```

They are also useful for calculating screen row/column addresses. If you have a data area (here referred to as SPOS), which holds the offset from the top left-hand corner of the screen of the next place to print a character, you can then set the co-ordinates in the following fashion:

```
LD HL,(SPOS) obtain screen offset
LD DE,32 number of characters per row
CALL DIV16 determine row & column
LD A,22
RST 10H print "AT" character
LD A,L row number (quotient)
RST 10H
LD A,E column number (remainder)
RST 10H
```

Next week we'll take a look at ways in which a Basic programmer can transfer into machine code concepts by considering the equivalent of "variables" and "arrays".

By Trevor Toms, author of *The Spectrum Pocket Book*, published by Phipps Associates.

16-bit Multiplication

Multiplies the 16 bit unsigned value in HL by the 16 bit unsigned value in DE, leaving the result in HL.

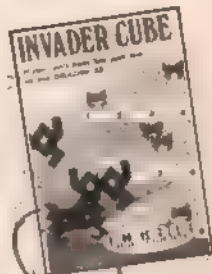
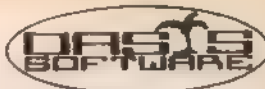
Addr Hex Op Operands

```
FF58 MUL16:
FF58 44 LD B,H
FF59 4D LD C,L
FF5A 3E 10 LD A,16
FF5C 21 0000 LD HL,0
FF5F A7 AND A
FF60 MUL16A:
FF60 CB 18 RR B
FF62 CB 19 RR C
FF64 3D 00 JR NC,MUL16D
FF66 17 ADD HL,DE
```

```
FF67 MUL16D:
FF67 CB 13 RI E
FF69 CB 12 RI D
FF6B 30 DEC A
FF6C 2D F2 JR NZ,MUL16A
FF6E C9 RET
```

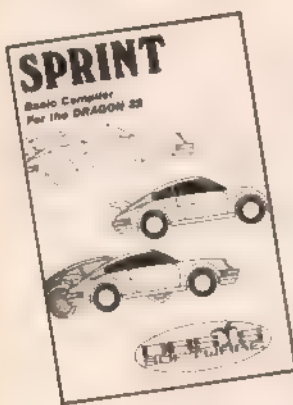
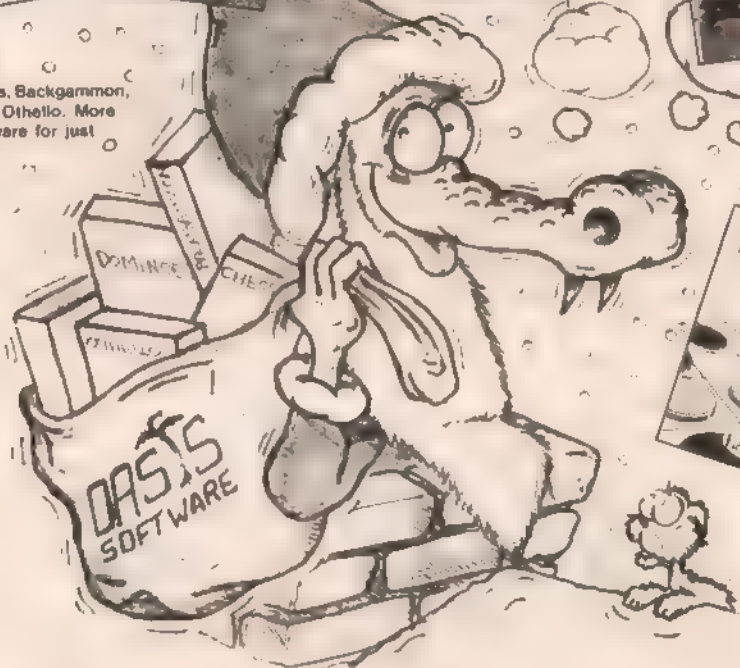
Symbols:
MUL16 FF58 MUL16A FF60
MUL16D FF67

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16 bit Division

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Addr Hex Op Operands

FF50	DIV16:	FF6A	DIV16A:	FF80 CB 14	RL H
FF5B 7A	LD A,D	FF6A D6 11	LD 8,17	FF82	DIV16T:
FF59 2F	CPL	FF6C	DIV16B:	FF82 E3	EX (SP),HL
FF5A 57	LD D,A	FF6C CB 15	RL I	FF83 CB 15	RL L
FF5B 7B	LD A,E	FF6E CB 14	RL H	FF85 CB 14	RL H
FF5C 2F	CPL	FF70 3B 00	JR C,DIV16E	FF87 E3	EX (SP),HL
FF5D 5F	LD E,A	FF72 10 FB	DJNZ DIV16B	FF8B 10 EC	DJNZ DIV16C
FF5E 13	INC DE	FF74 1D 00	JR DIV16X	FF8A	DIV16X:
FF5F E5	PUSH HL	FF76	DIV16C:	FF8A D1	POP DE
FF60 AF	XOR A	FF76 E3	EX (SP),HL	FF8B CB 2A	DRA D
FF61 47	LD H,A	FF77 E5	PUSH HL	FF8D CB 1B	RR E
FF62 6F	LD L,A	FF7B 17	ADD HL,DE	FF8F C9	RET
FF63 E3	EX (SP),HL	FF7C 10 00	JR NC,DIV16D		
FF64 7A	LD A,D	FF7B E3	EX (SP),HL		
FF65 D3	OR E	FF7C	DIV16D:		
FF66 D0 00	JR NZ,DIV16A	FF7C E1	POP HL		
FF68 E1	POP HL	FF7D E3	EX (SP),HL		
FF69 C9	RET	FF7E CB 15	RL I		

Symbols:
DIV16 FF5B
DIV16B FF6C
DIV16D FF7C
DIV16X FF8A

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POP-AN



All wrapped up

Mark Harrison presents Logotext — a word processing utility for the Dragon 32/64

Logotext is designed for the Dragon 32/64, linked to a Tandy CGP-115 colour printer. It uses an inverse display on the text screen and works quickly as values are Poked into the appropriate memory locations. Text is Saved and Loaded to tape in the form of machine code.

A 'help' function is included, as is a demonstration routine which can be recalled from memory by pressing Shift and R. All functions listed in the help routine can be called by pressing Shift and H (when entering any function, always switch the cursor to gliding (G) mode by Shift and C). All the alphanumeric characters are

available, in inverse type, as are realignment (Shift and R) and search (Shift and F) routines. You can preserve a document in memory (Shift and P) and later recall it.

Any text is preserved when calling the help function, as the screen is put in a different memory location.

Notes

- 10-200 Set up title display
- 270-600 Main editor
- 670-1260 Various subroutines
- 1270-1420 Help
- 1430-1620 More subroutines
- 1630-1690 Data for demonstration routine
- 1700-1870 Final subroutines

```

10 REM *****
20 REM * LOGOTEXT *
30 REM * ***** *
40 REM * MARK HARRISON *
50 REM * (C) 1983 *
60 REM * HOBBY SOFTWARE *
70 REM *****
80 CLS
90 FOR I=0 TO 15
100 PRINT@I*33, LOGO-TEXT,
110 NEXT I
120 PRINT@400, "PRESS A KEY..."
130 IF INKEY="" THEN GOTO 1
140 POKE 4,1:SCREEN=1:POKE
150 FOR J=1538 TO 2049
160 READ Q
170 POKE J,Q
180 NEXT J
190 SCREEN=1
200 MOTOROFF:ADD1000
210 GOSUB 1280
220 CLS
230 SCREEN=1
240 J=1023
250 I=1
260 I
270 POKE 329,0:A=INKEY
280 I
290 IF E="W" THEN POKE 1,09:POKE 1,32
300 IF E="I" THEN POKE 1,21:POKE
310 I
320 IF I=12-INT(1/12) THEN GOSUB 1280
330 IF A=" " THEN 270
340 A=ASC(A)
350 IF B=96 AND B=123 THEN A=A-35:GOTO 3
360 IF B=64 AND B=31 THEN A=A+32
370 IF A=96 AND A=123 THEN POKE 329,250
380 IF A=92 AND Y=0 THEN Y=1:A=32:GOSUB
390 I
400 IF A=0 THEN J=1-2:GOTO 250
410 IF A=13 OR A=10 THEN J=1+31
420 IF A=9 AND E=1 THEN 470
430 IF A=8 THEN A=32:1-INT(1/16)*16+16
440 IF A=94 THEN I=1-33
450 IF A=13 OR A=121 THEN GOSUB 670
460 IF J=1024 THEN J=1023
470 IF J=1535 THEN J=1534
480 IF A=101 THEN GOSUB 250
490 IF A=12 THEN 270
500 IF A=50 THEN E=1:E=0=5010 270
510 IF A=101 OR A=9 OR A=10 OR A=13 OR A
520 IF A=12 THEN 250
530 I
540 IF A=115 OR A=108 THEN GOSUB 870

```

```

550 IF A=108 THEN GOSUB 780
560 IF A=115 THEN GOSUB 820
570 IF A=120 THEN GOSUB 1160:GOSUB 1430
580 GOSUB 1210:GOSUB 330
590 IF A=114 THEN SCREEN=1:GOSUB 1060
600 IF A=112 THEN SCREEN=1:GOSUB 1110
610 I
620 IF A=104 THEN GOSUB 1160:GOSUB 1270
630 GOSUB 1210
640 IF A=102 THEN GOSUB 1160:GOSUB 1460
650 IF (1-23)/32 = INT((1-2)/32) THEN G=
660 INT(1/32)
670 IF (1-32)=INT(1/32) THEN G=0
680 IF A=32 AND G=1 THEN J=1-1024:1-INT(
690 1/32):1-1024:1-1024:31:G=0
700 IF B=94 AND A=123 THEN A=32
710 POKE 1,A
720 GOTO 270
730 P=1-1-1-1024
740 I=INT(1/32)
750 I=1+32
760 J=1-1023
770 FOR J=1 TO J
780 POKE J,0
790 NEXT J
800 RETURN
810 I
820 FOR J=1 TO J+31:POKE J,32:NEXT J
830 RETURN
840 SCREEN=1
850 I
860 CLS
870 SCREEN=0:RETURN
880 SCREEN=1
890 I
900 CLS
910 SCREEN=0:RETURN
920 SCREEN=1
930 I
940 CLS
950 PRINT@224, "FILENAME":
960 A=LEFT$(A,8)
970 CLS
980 GOSUB 1210
990 RETURN
1000 I
1010 FOR J=1024 TO 1535
1020 A=PEEK(J)
1030 I=(J-1)
1040 IF A=128 OR A=96 THEN A=32
1050 IF A=127 THEN A=A+4
1060 PRINT@-2,CHR$(A)
1070 IF J=32=INT(1/32) THEN PRINT@-2,
1080 NEXT J
1090 PRINT@-2,

```




LOGOTEXT (Dragon 32/64)

Microdrive revisited

Andy Pennell assesses the ZX Microdrive three months after its launch

It's now just over three months since the launch of the long-awaited Sinclair ZX Microdrives for the Spectrum. Thanks to PCW, I was one of the few who got one on the day of their launch, although I couldn't keep it for very long.

Luckily I was one of the very first Spectrum customers (number 177 to be exact) and I received a priority order form on the day after the launch, which I immediately sent off with a cheque. Like all customers I was limited to a maximum of two Microdrives, so I ordered my full quota. I received them in a Sinclair personal best of 21 days, and they both worked.

The first 400 customers, including myself, got a Helpline telephone number to contact one of the engineers at Camberley. A friend also received a Microdrive at the same time, and he had to use the Helpline immediately. This was because his Spectrum crashed with the interface connected, but it worked perfectly on mine. After telephoning, he was told that the Interface 1 was incompatible with certain Spectrums. He was sent replacement units that he tested before returning the faulty ones.

The original interface, like mine, was an Issue 3, which had an Eprom and a few modifications on it, but the replacement was an Issue 4, and was completely different inside. This is the current version, and seems to work with all types of Spectrum.

Shortly after this we both began to

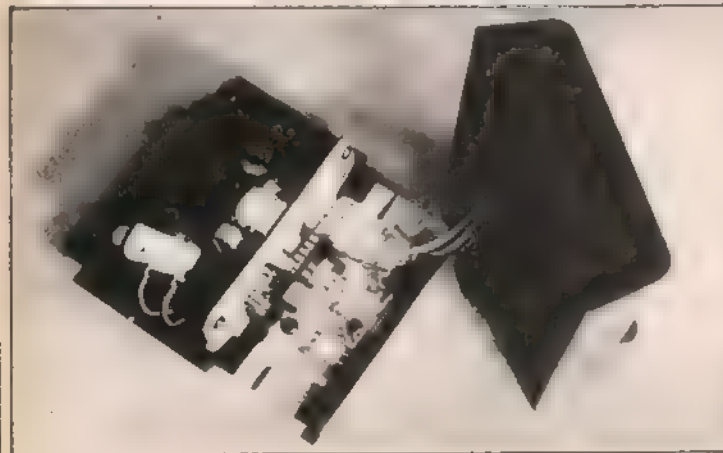
pinchwheel in the Microdrive, and wrapping around itself, jamming the drive and making the cartridge useless.

According to a Sinclair spokesperson these problems were caused by a design fault in the cartridges, which has now been corrected. This would seem to be so, as neither of us has had any problems with cartridges recently.

During the spate of total failures I sent my whole system back for replacement.

I was told that this was a known problem, with no easy solution. After expressing disbelief at this response, I was told to return both drives and they would try and supply two that ran at the same speed! In the end I returned one drive, and the replacement thankfully runs at what appears to be the correct speed. Since then, Nigel Searle of Sinclair has denied any such problem, though only time will tell if there is or not.

If you are one of the lucky ones with an



experience an alarming rate of cartridge failure. The cartridges are tiny black boxes which contain the tape loop, and were the source of most of our hardware problems. There were two types of failure — the first was a total seizure that prevented the tape from turning; the second was the tape leaving the cartridge, catching on the tiny

and I received an Issue 4 Interface, and two new Microdrives. Unfortunately, they ran at different speeds, so that cartridges created on one would not load on the other. In addition to this, all of my existing software created on my previous drives would not load on either, so I again used the 'hotline'.

Interface 1 and Microdrive, and unlucky enough to have a problem with it, send the faulty unit to Camberley.

Turnround times at Camberley are improving, partly due to the recent expansion of Sinclair's distributor's premises at Frimley (see *Popular Computing Weekly*, 3-9 November).

The cartridges themselves are expensive at £4.95 each, and it is a slow process to re-order as they take the statutory 14 days. They hold around 90K on average, and come in a tiny case.

Because of their diminutive size they are very easy to mislay, and I am eagerly awaiting the first interlocking racking system for them. Mine are currently stored in a handy-sized cardboard box, which is practical, if a little inelegant. A friend uses a plastic pencil case given away with a few purchases of a certain toothpaste!

After my cartridge problems, I now have the good habit of backing up all my software on cartridge to cassette, in case of failure. I am just completing a machine-code program that transfers the contents of a whole cartridge onto a C60 cassette, and can then transfer it back if the cartridge fails (or gets lost).

I have to admit that the main contents of my cartridges are games, so that my favourites load quickly. For example, *The Hobbit* and *Valhalla* can each load in under 10 seconds, and *Jelpac* in around six. It is regrettably rather difficult to convert commercial cassette programs on Microdrive, for a couple of reasons. The first is getting around the protection methods used, for which I will give no clues, and the second is simply lack of memory.

Most 16K games use *Clear* to move Ramtop down as low as possible. The problem occurs because there is normally insufficient spare memory to use the Microdrive, as a *Save* takes about 600 bytes, so machine-code has to be used to shift the code about.

Another problem is that due to a serious bug in the Interface Rom, if Ramtop is too low, or a Basic program too big, the machine will sometimes crash if you try *Save* or *Load*. It crashes while leaving the Microdrive motor on, forcing you to pull the plug out while it goes round, often damaging the tape and losing programs. Sinclair say that they are working on the bug.

As well as the extra Microdrive commands, there are two new commands not mentioned in the Interface manual, namely *Cls #* and *Clear #*. The first clears the screen back to the switch-on colours, and is very useful at times, while the second is used to tidy up the streams area, and is also useful, though it can be a bit danger-

ous. I discovered their explanations in the database program supplied on the demo cartridges with each Microdrive, as they are absent from the current manual.

that use them invalid. Hopefully, Sinclair will correct the bugs by patches, so that all the routines stay in the same place.

Already the first Microdrive-compatible software has appeared from Richard Shepherd, but it is supplied on cassette. Not much commercial software is expected to appear on cartridge for a while, for two reasons: the first is the cartridges themselves; their cost, availability and reliability.



The inner workings of a Sinclair ZX Microdrive (top) and two of the main cartridges (left) which caused early problems through jamming.

Having a real keyboard and case by Dean Electronics, I was initially worried whether I could plug my Interface 1 into it, but I could — just. I don't know if this is possible with any other keyboards though. I also have a Hilderbay printer interface and Kempston joystick interface; both work with the Microdrives, although you could have problems with your joystick plug on the Kempston interface, as there may not be sufficient clearance.

As some details have been known about the Interface 1 I/O ports for over a year, most hardware should work with it, but two items that don't are the LPrint interface by Euro Electronics and the programmable joystick interface from Cambridge Computing. There also seem to be problems with the Micronet 800 adaptor.

What of availability? Although no one at Sinclair is allowed to say exactly how many Microdrives there are, it is believed to be about 4000. At that rate it will be over 25 years before all the Spectrum customers get Microdrives! Order forms have a high rarity value, and avid PCW readers will already have seen the first Wanted ad offering to pay for one.

Delivery times of Microdrives and cartridges are under 28 days, but I wish cartridges, at least, were available in shops, like blank cassettes.

The Microdrives are not expected to be available in the shops until well into the New Year, so around 600,000 Spectrum owners are going to have to be patient for a while longer.



ous. I discovered their explanations in the database program supplied on the demo cartridges with each Microdrive, as they are absent from the current manual.

An important feature of the Interface 1 is that it allows you to add your own commands to the Basic, if you know how to program in machine-code. The Sinclair manual makes no mention of it, though modesty prevents me from mentioning which new Sunshine book explains the procedure.

Machine-code programmers can also use the Microdrives, using hook codes, which are 23 functions. Sinclair appear to be paranoid about software piracy, so all but one of the Microdrive hook codes have been designed to prevent program files being read, which means that routines to do this have to be called directly in the Interface.

This would be fine if it were not for the fact that Sinclair say they are going to change the ROM routine locations, which will make any machine-code programs

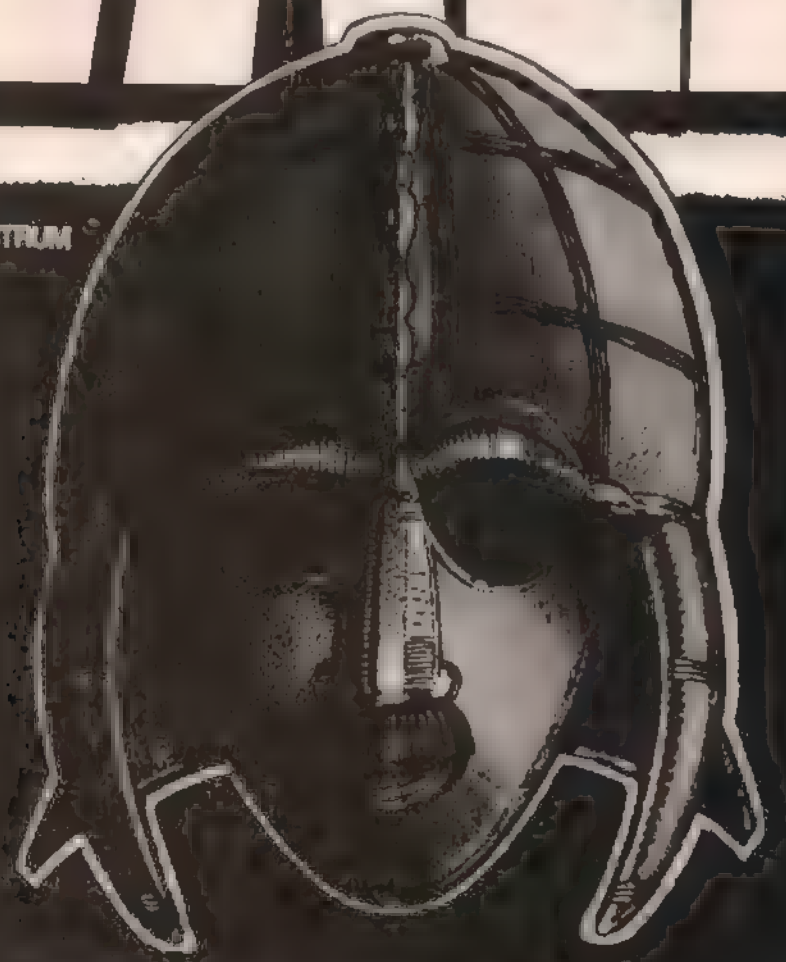
much harder to protect Basic programs that use Microdrive commands.

Although the Microdrive is the most publicised facility of the Interface 1, it also has networking and RS232 facilities. I have tried the networking with two friends with interfaces, and it works very well. One company has just released a game that uses the network for two players, and I am dying to get hold of it.

The RS232 facility also works, and I have successfully connected my Spectrum to an Apple with it. For communication to other machines it is great, but it is not so good for driving printers. Assuming you have an RS232 printer, which can involve the purchase of a £60 adaptor card in the case of Epsoms and others, you can send text, listings and, if you write the necessary software, screen copies. But it is not possible to use *Tab* to produce neat output, like I am used to with my Centronics printer interface.

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POP W 48

Think of a number

John Scriven and Patrick Hall present a simple number game in the first of a two-part series

Although it has been pointed out that exciting displays do not turn a mediocre program into a good one, there is no doubt that some programs benefit from interesting graphics. In many computers it is necessary to resort to machine code routines to speed up the display. The hardware and the operating system of the BBC combine to produce one of the fastest copies of Basic in any home computer.

Firstly, though, an indication of simple ways in which the computer can do tasks faster and more efficiently than humans.

There is a game that you can play using the blackboard, a piece of paper, or just your memory. It is the familiar one of 'I am thinking of a number — ask me any question about it you like, but I can only reply using yes or no'. Faced with this problem for the first time, the child may be inclined to guess. If he or she realises that the number can be anything under (say) 1000, it is not long before it is appreciated that the task is difficult, and that some sort of logical strategy must be employed.

In a classroom, the class usually divides up into guessers, hypothesisers and pseudo-hypothesisers. Guessers do just that; hypothesisers try to reduce the number of possible choices by asking such questions as 'is it an even number?' or 'is it less than 500?'. Pseudo-hypothesisers are more subtle than the guessers. If the response 'no' is received to the question 'is the number less than 500?', then the sort of question they will ask is 'is it more than 500?'. It sometimes seems a big hurdle to jump before they realise that a 'no' response to a question provides as much information as a 'yes'.

This sort of game is a useful activity as it can improve mental skills including memory and visualisation of a sort of internal number line. It also helps develop logical questioning and inquiry strategies. You can probably see that the most logical strategy to follow is to approximately divide the answer by two.

A typical series of questions may go as follows:

Number is 242

Is it larger than 500? No.
Is it larger than 250? No.
Is it larger than 125? Yes.
Is it larger than 190? Yes.
Is it larger than 230? Yes.
Is it larger than 240? Yes.
Is it larger than 245? No.
Is it larger than 243? No.
Is it larger than 241? Yes.
Is it 242? Yes.

Using this binary chopping method, it is always possible to reach the number without guessing in less than 10 attempts — 2 raised to the power of 10 is of course 1024. Most older children will adopt this method, or one similar until they get fairly close and then guess. It is not envisaged

that they will actually be calculating the odds on a correct guess, although at this level, it does resemble gambling!

A computer can choose the number, select correct responses and give the total number of attempts at the end. In this way, a teacher or parent can be relieved of the task of administering this game to children, and the program allows an individual or group approach. For the child who finds it difficult to acquire a good strategy, it can provide as much practice as is necessary.

The program has been made as simple

as possible to show how even short programs can have their point.

Commentary

Lines 50-230 contain the Repeat-Until loop. This will repeat the program until the Escape key is pressed. Variable 'score' contains the number of guesses so far. Variable 'top' is the upper limit for the number, and 'bottom', the lower limit.

Lines 120-2 contain the input Repeat loop. This is only terminated when guess = number. If guess = number, then line 170 sends control to Procrig at line 260, which simply prints out the number of attempts.

This is an extract from *Programming for Education on the BBC computer* by John Scriven and Patrick Hall and published by Sunshine Books.

Number

```

10 REM ** Number Guesser **
20 REM ** A.J.S. 1/4/83 **
30 REM
40 MODE1
50 REPEAT
60 CLS
70 score = 0
80 bottom = 0
90 PRINT "I will think of a number. You
must try"
95 PRINT "to guess it in as few goes as
you can."
100 INPUT "Choose a top limit for your
number "top
110 number = RND(top)
120 REPEAT
130 PRINT "The number lies between ";
135 PRINT "bottom;" and "top
140 score = score + 1
150 PRINT "Enter guess no. "; score: " ";
160 INPUT guess
170 IF guess = number THEN PROCright
180 IF guess > number THEN top = guess
190 IF guess < number THEN bottom = guess
200 UNTIL guess = number
210 PRINT "Press space bar to go again"
220 A$ = GET$
230 UNTIL FALSE
240 END
250
260 DEF PROCright
270 PRINT "You got it in "; score: " goes"
280 ENDPROC

```


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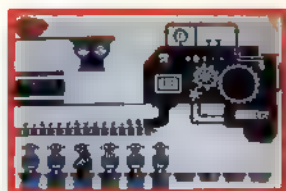
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CHOOSING A HOME MICRO

WARNING

Choosing a home micro can be a daunting task to the newcomer, and with an ever increasing number of micros emerging on the market, even up-grading, say, from a ZX81 can be a risky and expensive exercise if the wrong decision is made. It is important to look at the real facts and specifications, and check exactly what you get for your money before choosing your micro-computer system.

THE PITFALLS

"DON'T LET THE ADD ONS ADD UP"

A number of large companies are offering packages that seem to be good value and low cost. These offers usually have a hidden sting inasmuch as the essential accessories such as connection leads, peripherals and software often carry very high cost premiums, e.g. software for low cost hardware usually costs between £29 and £49 for a ROM cartridge!

CHECK THE QUALITY OF THE PRODUCT.

Raw materials are now an area where corners can be cut, and shoddy workmanship during 'building' can effect the 'up-time' of your unit. Areas to watch out for are unreliable edge connectors, corrosion and poor quality P.C.B.s. Low quality components and bad design will seriously effect the reliability of the end product, and can lead to false economy.

DON'T BUY A GAMES MACHINE

Unless you want just games and nothing else! With a games computer you are limited. Some computers, however, have the advantage of both games facility plus the whole world of computing to explore, as your interest and skills develop. A real computer system will allow you to expand your knowledge of the Hi-Technology world, and help earn its keep with its added uses in the field of education, communication and home business use.

SOFTWARE

Make sure the system you choose has a growing library of support software, to enable you to realize the full potential of your machine.

KEY POINTS TO LOOK FOR

• High Resolution Colour

In general most home computers have a poor graphics resolution (or detail). Check on the vertical and horizontal resolution in graphic mode and multiply the two numbers together. If the result is less than 35,000, then the graphics can hardly be considered high resolution. Without high resolution graphics displays such as those used in games tend to be 'Chunky' in appearance.

• High Quality Sound

Some computers claim to provide a sound channel when in reality all that can be found inside the computer is a small buzzer controlled by electronic pulses. At the very least a sound facility should provide more than one channel and a raise channel as well (for gun shot effects in games for example). The best systems also provide envelope control of the sound channels to produce very sophisticated effects, very important for generating music. Also look for the ability to connect to external amplifiers.

• Keyboard

For accurate entry of programs and data into a computer it is important that the keyboard has a good tactile feel in operation. Coupled with acoustic feedback the user is fully aware when the computer has accepted his/her actions. Also of importance in a keyboard is layout. A standard computer keyboard layout will familiarise the user with the vast majority of computers used in the world of business and professional applications, very important if the purpose of purchasing a computer is educational.

• RAM

One of the most important features of a computer is the amount of RAM, or memory, included. In general the more powerful and exciting a computer program is the more RAM it requires. But take care, all computers are advertised quoting the total RAM used in the system. Computers use up a great deal of their own RAM for storing essential data and particularly in supporting the graphics display and the CPU. If it is less than 32K think again, is it enough?

• Computer Language

It is too difficult to program a computer in its own binary language so high level languages are used, the most popular being BASIC. However, there are a number of BASICs, some being very different from the rest. A de facto standard in the computer industry is Microsoft BASIC. Learn this one and you will be able to program in the majority of computer BASICs; such an important point if a home computer is to be used to educate your children to face the technology of the future.

• Expansion

As your interest and knowledge of computing grows, you will need a



Choosing the right system carefully will save you from throwing your money away. Check full specification, plus peripherals and software prices, before buying. Preferably choose a flexible computer system that can expand to meet your needs.

computer system that will grow with you; able to accommodate Printers, Disk drives, Joysticks, Communications Modem, and Colour Monitor, as well as produce HI-FI sound effects.

• Software

The computer you choose should have a growing selection of utility

software to make the most of its capability. Remember, computing is here to stay. You can't learn to compute on a toy, or a device which does not behave like a real computer. In short, look out for a computer which offers all the points above, and you will be sure of getting the best value for money.

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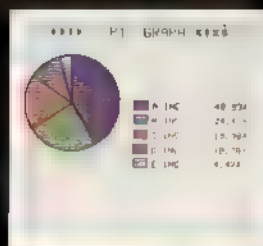


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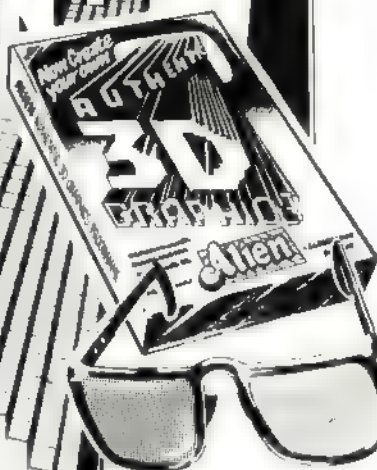


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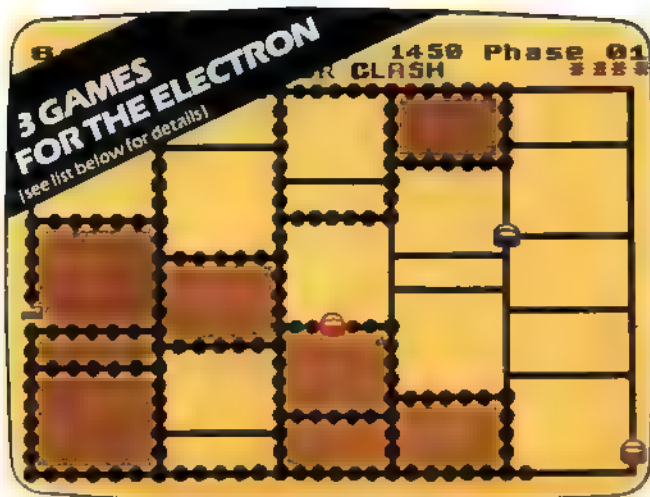
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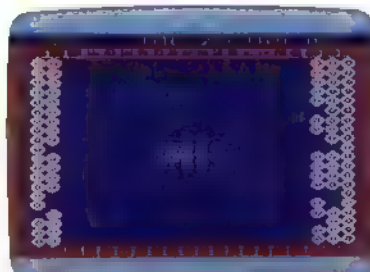
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A spanner in the works

Boris Allan reveals some hitherto undisclosed bugs in Commodore 64 Basic

Integer values are whole numbers with no fractional part. Integers are stored as whole numbers in two bytes (ie, 16 bits), and integer constants might be 3, or -4567E3, where each is stored exactly, with no approximation. Integer variables are shown with a % suffix, eg, X% or TJ%. Integers take exact (ie non-fractional) values from -32768 to 32767.

Real values are numbers with fractional parts, so note that 3.0 is real number, whereas 3 is an integer. 1.23456 and 1234.56 are both real numbers and can be written as 1.23456E0 and 1.23456E3 respectively. The portion before the E is sometimes called the "mantissa", and the portion after the E is called the "exponent".

Real values are stored in the 64 in a similar manner. The number is stored as a mantissa of four bytes (32 bits, ie, an accuracy of about 11 digits), and an exponent of one byte (8 bits, ie about E-39 to E+38). One bit of the 32 mantissa bits, is devoted to holding the sign of the number (1 for negative and 0 for positive numbers).

Real numbers take positive values, ranging from 2.93873588E-39 to 1.70141183E+38. Negative values are rather stranger. Try the short program:

```
10 T=1
20 T=T/2:PRINT T:GOTO 20
```

and watch the succession of values as T becomes steadily smaller. Eventually we reach:

```
5.87747176E-39
2.93873588E-39
0
```

and ■ is fine. Trying:

```
10 T=-1
20 T=T/2:PRINT T:GOTO 20
reaches
```

```
-1.17549435E-38
-5.87747176E-39
2.93873588E-39
0
```

and we have discovered a bug in the 64 Basic system. Half of -5.87747176E-39 is not 2.93873588E-39.

We can produce some further errors:

```
T=4.25352959E+37
PRINT T+2
```

produces an overflow error, whereas:

```
PRINT T+T
```

gives the result 8.50705917E+37, not an error. T+2 is exactly the same as T+T. Thus, we have discovered another bug in 64 Basic. Continuing with:

```
T=T+T:PRINT T:PRINT T+T
```

produces the value 8.50705917E+37 for the first Print, and an overflow error for the second Print:

```
PRINT 8.50705917E+37 + 8.50705917E+37
```

gives an answer 1.70141183E+38. To multiply by 2 (and not to add) gives an overflow error again.

Some of the 64 Basic routines for real arithmetic are incorrect at the extremes, and may possibly be so for less extreme examples.

Logical values are -1 (for "true") and 0 (for "false"). When a logical comparison is made, both sides of the comparison are effectively turned into 16 bit integers. If we try:

```
PRINT T=T
```

(where T is the large number above) the result is -1 (ie, it is true that T equals T). If we then try:

```
PRINT T AND T
```

there is an illegal quantity error, because the number T is out of bounds for the operation of and. To use:

```
P=1:PRINT P AND P
```

gives the answer 1.

T is too large a number to be converted into a 16 bit integer, whereas P easily fits. If every bit of a 16 bit number is "true", ie, every bit is set to 1, then the number is 11111111111111, and that, as a two's complement number, is -1. Logical values can result from logical comparisons or operations, but — as they also have numerical values — logical values can be treated as integer or real values, depending on the context.

String values are ordered collections of characters, where normally characters are distinguished from variables or constants by being enclosed in quotes. "X" is a character, but X is a variable; "X/2" is a string, whereas X/2 is an arithmetical operation; and "222222" is a string, but 222222 is a constant.

Each character (eg, "X" or "/" or "2") has two codes associated with it. The first code, the ASCII code, relates to how each character is stored in one byte of memory (most computers use ASCII codes). The second code, the screen display code, relates to how each character is presented on the display screen (these code values are specific to the 64).

String variables are distinguished by a \$ suffix, eg, A\$ or THIS\$ (the latter is equivalent to THIS).

Computing values

Unless otherwise constrained, the 64 always behaves as if the numbers with which it is working are real values. The real values are stored in memory as four bytes for the mantissa (31 bits plus 1 bit for the sign of the number), with one byte being used for the exponent.

As all the computations are made in "floating point" mode, where the term floating point means what we have termed "real" values, there have to be procedures for converting from one type of value to another.

Examining Preg (pages 310-313) shows that at locations 3 and 4 there is a pointer (Aday1) to the routine which converts floating point numbers to integers, and at 5 and 6 there is a pointer (Aday2) to the integer to floating point routine. The need to convert from integer to floating point values explains why the use of integer variables usually slows down programs.

At location 13 there is a flag (Valtyp) to whether the current data type is string or numeric, and, if numeric, location 14 (Inflg) indicates whether the number is integer or floating point.

In the two bytes at locations 20 and 21 are stored intermediate (ie, temporary) integer values, and the routines to which we have just referred (ie pointers Aday1 and Aday2) use this temporary storage location (Linum). The routines also use a temporary storage location for floating point values which is called the floating point accumulator.

Actually, there are two floating point accumulators (#1 and #2), and the floating point numbers stored in these locations are held in a different manner to normal floating point values. Floating point accumulator #1 is held at locations 97 to 102. The way in which the value is stored is this:

LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
97	Exponent
98-101	Mantissa
102	Sign byte

and the order is exactly the same for floating point accumulator #2, which extends from location 105 to location 110.

You will observe that this differs from the way numbers are stored in memory by the addition of an extra byte, the "sign" byte. There is also one byte given over to storing any overflow digits from #1 (at location 104), and one byte used for rounding of the value #1 (location 112).

After using the accumulator, the resulting number is deemed to be negative if the sign bit for the number, and the sign byte, both indicate a negative result. In the coding of the mathematical routines on the 64 (and, so I have discovered, the Vic20) errors have been made with checks on overflows and underflows. These errors have resulted in the sign comparisons being corrupted. If you:

```
PRINT 2*(-128)
```

the answer is zero, but to:

```
PRINT 2*(-127)/2
```

— which is effectively the same, because $2*(-128) = 2*(-127)/2$ — is to produce the result 2.93873588E-39.

Through these bugs might seem trivial, they do cast doubt on some of the other mathematical routines used in the 64. If the 64 is to be used for serious purposes, these bugs need eradicating.

If the 64 is programmed using machine code, these routines will not affect results, unless the Basic floating point routines are used from within machine code.

This is an extract from Boris Allan's forthcoming book *Pocket Guide to the CBM64* to be published by Pemsans.

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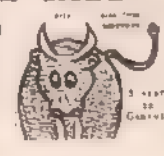
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Open Forum is for you to publish your programs and ideas. Take care that the listings you send in are all bug-free. Your documentation should start with a general description of the program and what it does and then give some detail of how the program is constructed. We will pay the *Program of the Week* double our new fee of £6 for each program published.

Shapes

on Spectrum

This program was written in conjunction with the local primary school. It is essentially a computer version of the popular

'matching shapes' toy and makes use of the Spectrum's high resolution graphics to draw shapes randomly selected, on the screen. No experience with computers is assumed.

You are allowed two tries at the answer before it is revealed. A correct answer

gives a large tick.

Program notes

30	Sets screen colour
35-60	Sets variables
75-110	Draws screen
120-130	Correct response
140-170	Main response
180-190	Correct answer
200-210	Wrong answer
1000-1910	Shapes subroutine
2000-2100	Point plot
3000-3190	Random numbers
3500-3590	Tick
4000-4080	Draw cross
6000-6150	Flash shape
6200-6470	Fill shape
6500-9999	Instructions and Save routine.

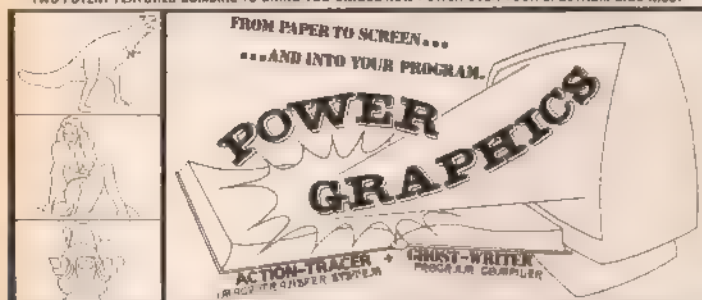
```

10 REM SHAPES
20 REM © J.S.H. ASHWORTH
   21/1/83
35 GO TO 35
30 BORDER 0 POKE 23693,7: CLS
GO SUB 6500
35 LET go=0: LET key=0: DIM p(1
4,2): IF p(1,1)>168 THEN GO SUB
2000
60 LET f1=INT (RAND*10)+1: LET
ox=24: LET oy=40: LET f=1: GO SU
D 500+(100*f): REM PICK SHAPE
70 GO SUB 2000
74 REM CLS
75 FOR z=1 TO 16: TO 120 PLOT z,0:
DRAW 0,1: NEXT z
77 PLOT 228,14: DRAW 0,160: PL
OT 150,90: DRAW 0,0
80 LET f1=1/3: PRINT AT 8,22;"1
": LET ox=150: LET oy=128: GO SU
B 900+(100*f): (s(1))
90 PRINT AT 8,22;"2": LET ox=2
28: LET oy=128: GO SUB 900+(100*
a(s(2)))
100 PRINT AT 19,22;"3": LET ox=
160: LET oy=40: GO SUB 900+(100*
a(s(3)))
110 PRINT AT 19,22;"4": LET ox=
228: LET oy=40: GO SUB 900+(100*
a(s(4)))
120 FOR z=1 TO 4: IF f1=a(s(z))
THEN LET ans=z: REM FIND RIGHT
ANSWER
130 NEXT z
140 REM WAIT FOR RESPONSE
150 IF INKEY$="" THEN GO TO 150
155 IF INKEY$="" STOP " THEN CLS
STOP
160 LET co=CODE INKEY$-48
170 IF co<1 OR co>14 OR co=key T
HEN GO TO 150
180 IF co=ans THEN GO SUB 3500:
GO SUB 6000: FOR c=1 TO 200: NE
XT c: LET go=0: CLS: RANDOMIZE
GO TO 35
200 LET go=go+1: IF go=2 THEN G
O SUB 4000: GO SUB 6200: LET go=
0: FOR c=1 TO 600: NEXT c: CLS:
RANDOMIZE: GO TO 35
210 GO SUB 4000: BEEP 1,-30: GO
TO 150
999 REM SHAPE SUBROUTINES
1000 PLOT ox+(8*f),oy+(16*f): DR
AW 0,80*f: DRAW 0,-80*f,-PI
1010 RETURN
1100 PLOT ox,oy: DRAW 50*f,0: DR
AW -50*f,0: DRAW 0,-120*f
1110 RETURN
1200 PLOT ox-(20*f),oy+(24*f): D
RAW 80*f,0: DRAW 0,80*f: DRAW -8
0*f,0: DRAW 0,-80*f
1210 RETURN
1300 PLOT ox,oy: DRAW 70*f,0: DR
AW 0,120*f: DRAW -70*f,0: DRAW 0
,-120*f
1310 RETURN
1400 PLOT ox,oy+(30*f): DRAW 70*
f,0: DRAW -35*f,((TAN (PI/3))*35
)*f: DRAW -35*f,(-(TAN (PI/3))*3
5)*f
1410 RETURN
1500 PLOT ox,oy: DRAW 40*f,40*f:
DRAW 0,54*f: DRAW -40*f,40*f: D
RAW 0,-134*f
1510 RETURN
1600 PLOT ox,oy: DRAW 40*f,40*f:
DRAW 0,88*f: DRAW -40*f,-40*f:
DRAW 0,-88*f
1610 RETURN
1700 PLOT ox+(24*f),oy: DRAW 32*
f,80*f: DRAW -32*f,32*f: DRAW -3
2*f,-32*f: DRAW 32*f,-80*f
1710 RETURN
1800 PLOT ox+(30*f),oy: DRAW 50*
f,50*f: DRAW -50*f,50*f: DRAW -5
0*f,-50*f: DRAW 50*f,-50*f
1810 RETURN
1900 CIRCLE ox-(8*f)+(24*f),oy+(
80*f),40*f
1910 RETURN
2000 RESTORE 2090
2010 FOR c=1 TO 4: FOR z=1 TO 2
2020 READ p(c,z): NEXT z: NEXT c
2090 DATA 168,128,228,126,168,40
,228,40
2100 RETURN
2999 REM CHOOSE 1-4 IN RANDOM
ORDER
3000 DIM s(4)
3010 FOR c=1 TO 4
3020 LET rn=INT (RAND*4)+1
3030 LET s(c)=rn
3040 FOR z=1 TO c-1
3050 IF s(c)=s(z) THEN GO TO 302
0
3060 NEXT z
3070 NEXT c
3100 DIM a(4): LET a(1)=c1
3110 FOR c=2 TO 4
3120 LET rn=INT (RAND*10)+1
3130 LET a(c)=rn
3140 FOR z=1 TO c-1
3150 IF a(c)=a(z) THEN GO TO 312
0
3160 NEXT z
3170 NEXT c
3190 RETURN
3500 REM DRAW TICK
3505 LET ink=RND*4+3: FOR z=64 T
O 72: PLOT 12,z: DRAW INK ink,28
0,72: NEXT z
3510 FOR z=36 TO 42: PLOT z,40:
DRAW INK ink,48,110: NEXT z
3520 PRINT AT 21,3: INVERSE 1;"
3500
3590 RETURN
3999 REM DRAW CROSS
4000 LET key=co
4005 LET ink=RND*4+3
4010 FOR c=p(co,1)-16 TO (p(co,1
)+3)-16
4020 PLOT c+8,p(co,2)-16: DRAW I
NK ink,30,63
4030 NEXT c
4050 FOR c=p(co,1)+14 TO (p(co,1
)+3)+14
4060 PLOT c+8,p(co,2)-16: DRAW I
NK ink,-30,63
4070 NEXT c
4080 RETURN
5000 REM FLASH SHAPE
5005 FOR c=20 TO 50
5010 BEEP .01,c: NEXT c
5050 FOR c=1 TO 5
5060 BEEP .05,c*5
5070 LET f=1/3: LET ox=p(ans,1):
LET oy=p(ans,2)
5100 INK 0: GO SUB 900+(100*f):
FOR z=1 TO 10: NEXT z
5110 INK 7: GO SUB 900+(100*f):
FOR z=1 TO 10: NEXT z: NEXT c
5150 RETURN
5200 REM FILL IN RIGHT SHAPE
5205 FOR c=30 TO -20 STEP -1: BE
EP .205,c: NEXT c

```

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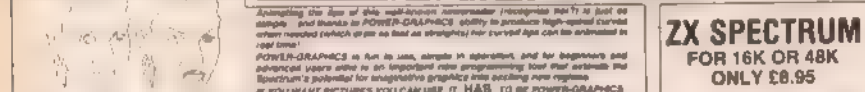
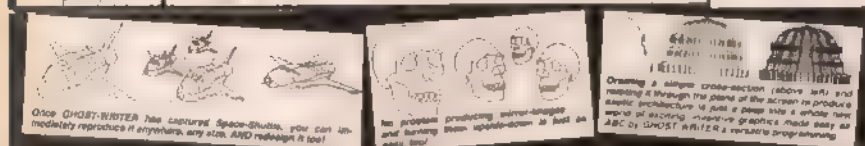


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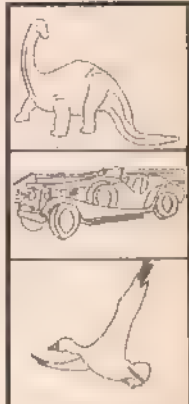
The new program captures your design DYNAMICALLY, giving you instantly the power to MOVE it anywhere, to SHRINK it down to a single pixel, or EXPAND it to fill the screen. You can SQUEEZE or STRETCH it into weird distortions. Flip it UPSIDE DOWN or MIRROR-IMAGE it. ROTATE it in the plane of the screen... in other words MANIPULATE IT UNDER YOUR FULL CONTROL!



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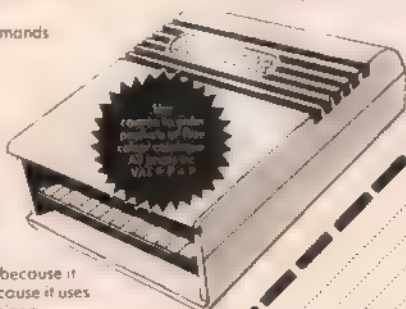
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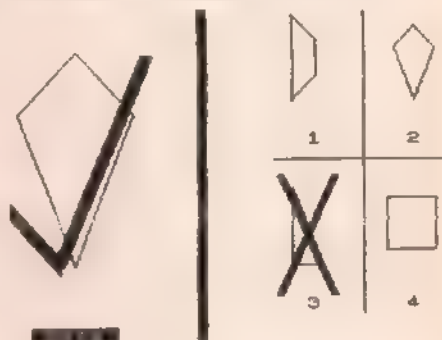
```

6210 GO TO 6250+ans*50
6300 FOR c=p(ans,1)-14 TO p(ans,
1)+39
6310 PLOT c,p(ans,2)-32: DRAW OV
ER 1;0.78
6320 NEXT c: RETURN
6350 FOR c=p(ans,1)-19 TO p(ans,
1)+27
6360 PLOT c,p(ans,2)-32: DRAW OV
ER 1;0.78
6370 NEXT c: RETURN
6400 FOR c=p(ans,1)-10 TO p(ans,
1)+39
6410 PLOT c,p(ans,2)-26: DRAW OV
ER 1;0.81
6420 NEXT c: RETURN
6450 FOR c=p(ans,1)-19 TO p(ans,
1)+27
6460 PLOT c,p(ans,2)-26: DRAW OV
ER 1;0.81
6470 NEXT c: RETURN
6500 REM INSTRUCTIONS
6505 PRINT PAPER 1:AT 0.0;" P
ROGRAM INFORMATION FOR
MATCHING SHAPES
5510 PRINT:PRINT " A large sh
ape is shown on the left-hand si
de of the screen;"
5520 PRINT " four small number
ed shapes appear on the rig
ht;"
5530 PRINT:PRINT " When the c
hild has made his choice he pr
esses the appropriate
key;"
5540 PRINT:PRINT " Two attempt
s are allowed before the c
orrect answer is given;"
5550 PRINT:PRINT " The progr
a continues indefinitely
. It can be stopped by pressing

```

SYMBOL SHIFT & "A" when the com
puter is waiting for a response.
To restart press RUN and **STOP**.
6560 PRINT #0; INK 5; BRIGHT 1;
Press any key to start program.
: PAUSE 1: PAUSE 0: CLS: RETURN

9999 SAVE "SHAPES" LINE 30



Shapes
by J. Ashworth

Quick Way Home

on TI99/4A

This program calculates mathematically

the 'line of best fit' for a set of points
plotted on a graph. It is written on a
TI99/4A but should be easy to convert to
other machines as no graphics are in-
volved.

Program notes

190-270 Inputs the data and performs calculations
on the initial data.
290-300 Perform the final calculations.
300-330 Prints the result in the form of an equation,
from which two plots can be calculated
and the straight line drawn.

```

100 CALL CLEAR
110 PRINT "REGRESSION ANALYSIS"
120 PRINT "-----"
130 PRINT "METHOD OF LEAST SQUARES (LINEAR REGRESSION)"
140 PRINT
150 PRINT "Y=MX+C"
160 PRINT TAB(5); "M=GRADIENT"
170 PRINT TAB(5); "C=INTERCEPT ON Y AXIS"
180 PRINT
190 PRINT "INPUT X,Y (999,999 TO END)"
200 INPUT X,Y
210 IF X=999 THEN 280
220 CUMX=CUMX+X
230 CUMY=CUMY+Y
240 CUMXY=CUMXY+(X*Y)
250 CUMXSQ=CUMXSQ+(X^2)
260 T=T+1
270 GOTO 200
280 IF Y=999 THEN 290 ELSE 220
290 M=((T*CUMXY)-(CUMX*CUMY))/((T*CUMXSQ)-(CUMX^2))
300 C=(CUMY/T)-(M*CUMX/T)
310 PRINT
320 PRINT "ANSWER:"
330 PRINT "Y=";M;"X+";C
340 END

```

Quick Way Home
by Christopher Jackson

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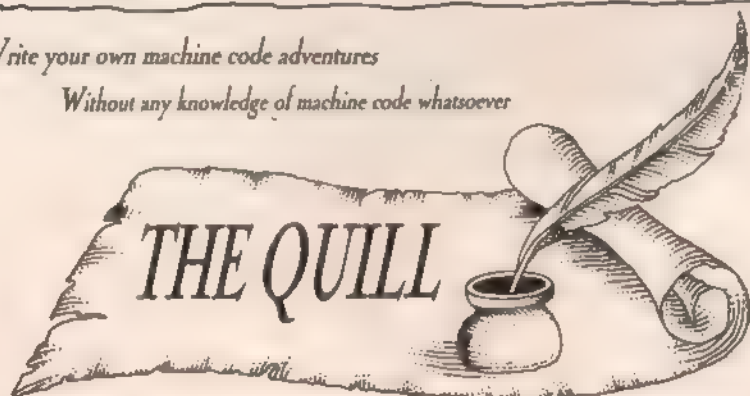
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THE QUILL is provided with a detailed tutorial manual which covers every aspect of its use in writing adventures. It is impossible to describe all the features of this amazing program in such a small space so we have produced a demonstration cassette which gives further information and an example of its use.

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OPEN FORUM

Catch

on Vic20

This is a game program for the unexpanded Vic. It is a game for two players. Player 1 uses the keyboard and player 2 uses the joystick. The object is to catch the ball which appears in the centre of the screen. To catch the ball you must move your man to the ball and place it on top.

This is made harder by the fact that the ball is moving! The joystick only moves up, down, left and right and so does the keyboard. The keys are as follows:
P = up, L = left, . = down, ; = right

Program notes

1-32 Prints please wait and sets the graphics.
40-61 Sets variables.
90-91 Finds a random position on the screen for ball.
100-109 Pokes characters on to screen.

110-127 Get keyboard and joystick values. Checks if character has gone off the screen and corrects.
128-130 Clear off characters.
131-135 Move player 1.
136 Play note.
137-145 Move ball randomly.
146 Turns off note.
147 Checks if player 1 has won.
148 Checks if player 2 has won.
150-154 Move player 2.
400-499 Print player 1 has won.
500-599 Print player 2 has won and ask if another game is wanted.

```
1 PRINT"PLEASE WAIT"
2 POKE36869,255
3 POKE50,255
4 POKE36878,15
5 POKE52,28:POKE56,28
10 FORA=7168TO7679:POKEA,PEEK(A+25600):NEXT
20 FORA=7384TO7384+23:READB:POKEA,B:NEXT
30 DATA129,66,36,24,24,36,66,129
31 DATA24,24,24,255,255,24,24,24
32 DATA0,60,126,126,126,126,60,0
40 PRINT"PRESS ANY KEY TO START"
50 GETA$:IFA$=""THEN50
55 PRINT"!"
60 A1=22:A2=22
61 B1=0:B2=21
90 C1=INT(RND(1)*22)
91 C2=INT(RND(1)*22)
100 POKE7680+(A1*22)+B1,27
101 POKE7680+(A2*22)+B2,28
102 POKE7680+(C1*22)+C2,29
104 POKE7680+(A1*22)+B1+30720,0
105 POKE7680+(A2*22)+B2+30720,0
106 POKE7680+(C1*22)+C2+30720,2
110 GETA$
111 POKE37139,128:G=PEEK(37151):POKE37154,
127:G=G+PEEK(37152):POKE37154,255
120 IFA1>22THENA1=22
121 IFA2>22THENA2=22
122 IFA1<0THENA1=0
123 IFA2<0THENA2=0
124 IFB1>21THENB1=21
125 IFB2>21THENB2=21
126 IFB1<0THENB1=0
127 IFB2<0THENB2=0
128 POKE7680+(A1*22)+B1,32
129 POKE7680+(A2*22)+B2,32
130 POKE7680+(C1*22)+C2,32
```

```
21 IFA$="P"THENA1=A1-1
22 IFA$=","THENA1=A1+1
30 IFA$="L"THENB1=B1-1
34 IFA$=";"THENB1=B1+1
35 GOTO150
36 POKE36876,200
37 J=INT(RND(1)*4)
38 IFJ=0THENC1=C1-1
39 IFJ=1THENC1=C1+1
40 IFJ=2THENC2=C2-1
41 IFJ=3THENC2=C2+1
42 IFC1<0THENC1=0
43 IFC1>22THENC1=22
44 IFC2<0THENC2=0
45 IFC2>22THENC2=22
46 POKE36876,0
47 IFA1=C1ANDB1=C2THEN400
48 IFA2=C1ANDB2=C2THEN500
49 GOTO100
50 IFG=307THENA2=A2-1
51 IFG=305THENA2=A2+1
52 IFG=357THENB2=B2-1
53 IFG=245THENB2=B2+1
54 RETURN
400 PRINT"PLAYER NO. 1 WON"
401 POKE36869,240
402 GOTO550
500 PRINT"PLAYER NO. 2 WON"
501 POKE36869,240
502 PRINT"ANOTHER GAME"
503 POKE198,0
504 GETA$:IFA$=""THEN560
505 IFA$="Y"THENPOKE36869,255:GOTO55
506 IFA$="N"THEN555
507 POKE36869,240
508 PRINT"READY"
```

Catch
by Darron Farrow

Run Around

on ZX81

The object of this game is to move around the grey part of the screen and eat the white squares as they appear. You are

represented as an I or v if you are moving up or down and as a < or > if you are moving left or right. The grey area also fills up with black squares; if these are "eaten", the game will end, giving the score; eating the edges of the screen will also end the game. The cursor control keys change the

direction that you move in and once pressed, you will continue to move in that direction until you press another key.

In line 20, the graphics are - Graphics space, 30 Graphics H's followed by a Graphics space. In line 100 the graphic is a Graphic A.

RUN AROUND

```
1 LET S=0
10 FOR I=1 TO 22
20 PRINT " "
30 NEXT I
40 FOR I=1 TO 31
50 PRINT AT 0,I," "
60 NEXT I
70 LET Y=10
80 LET X=10
90 LET A$="I"
100 PRINT AT Y,X,A$
101 IF INKEY$="8" THEN LET A$="<"
110 IF INKEY$="8" THEN LET A$="<"
120 IF INKEY$="7" THEN LET A$="<"
130 IF INKEY$="6" THEN LET A$="<"
140 IF A$="I" THEN LET Y=Y-1
150 IF A$="U" THEN LET Y=Y+1
```

```
170 IF A$="I" THEN LET X=X-1
180 IF A$="U" THEN LET X=X+1
190 GOSUB 1000
190 PRINT AT Y,X,A$
200 GOTO 100
200 LET P=(PEEK(16386)+255+PEEK
K(16387))
210 LET P=P+1+(Y*33)+X
220 IF PEEK(P)=128 THEN GOTO 3
230
230 IF PEEK(P)=0 THEN LET S=S+1
240 GOSUB 2000
250 RETURN
260 PRINT AT RND*19+1,RND*30+1,
270
280 PRINT AT RND*20,RND*31," "
290
300 PRINT AT 10,10," "
310 PRINT TAB 10;" "
320
```

Run Around
by E Smith

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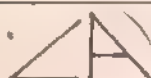
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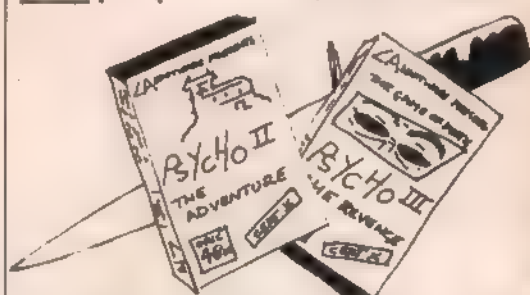
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OPEN FORUM

Demos

on BBC

This is an interesting demonstration of the

BBC's graphic capabilities. It will only run on the Model B as it uses modes 1 and 2 for the five demonstrations.

The first demo is a complicated flashing

string pattern, the second a simpler but similar version. The third is derived from triangles, the fourth a multi-colour flower and the fifth, a multi-coloured spiral. Press q to exit from the program.

```

10 MODE2
15 PROC F2
20 DRAW0,400: DRAW0,800: DRAW600,800: GCOLOR,91
   PLOT85,0,400: MOVE1200,800: DRAW1200,400: GCOLOR,
   11: PLOT85,600,800: MOVE1200,400: DRAW1200,0:
   DRAW600,0: GCOLOR,14: PLOT85,1200,400: MOVE0,0:
   DRAW0,400: GCOLOR,12: PLOT85,600,0
30 PRINTTAB(2,2): "GRAPHICS DEMO."
40 PRINTTAB(8,12): "By"
50 PRINTTAB(6,15): "NICHOLAS"
60 PRINTTAB(7,17): "SHORT"
65 G=GET$
70 CLS: MODE7
80 PRINTTAB(4,1): CHR$129: CHR$141: "GRAPHICS DEMO."
   "PRINTTAB(4,2): CHR$129: CHR$1
   41: "GRAPHICS DEMO."
90 PRINT CHR$131: "Choose a number corresponding
   with one"
100 PRINTCHR$131: "of the following graphics "
110 PRINTCHR$131: "demonstrations below."
120 PRINT CHR$130: "To leave the program
   press 'q'"
130 PRINT CHR$133: "To return to this sheet
   after a"
140 PRINTCHR$133: "graphics routine hit any key"
150 PRINT CHR$130: "1) ---- "CHR$132:"
   STRING PATTERN 1"
160 PRINTCHR$130: "2) ---- "CHR$132:"STRING
   PATTERN 2"
170 PRINTCHR$130: "3) ---- "CHR$132:"TRIANGLES"
180 PRINTCHR$130: "4) ---- "CHR$132:"FLOWER"
190 PRINTCHR$130: "5) ---- "CHR$132:"SPIRAL"
300 INPUT "YOUR CHOICE".D
305 IF D=9 GOTO 3000
310 IF D<1 OR D>5 GOTO 300
320 IF D=1 GOTO 500
330 IF D=2 GOTO 1000
340 IF D=3 GOTO 1500
350 IF D=4 GOTO 2000
360 IF D=5 GOTO 2500
370 IF D=9 GOTO 3000
500 MODE1
510 VDU5
520 CX=1: FX=RND(5)
530 VDU29,640: 5121
540 MOVE0,0
550 FOR A=0 TO 125 STEP0.2
560 GCOLOR,1+(3.4*A+3)MOD3
570 DRAW 3.5*A*SIN(A*10),2*A*COS(A*10)
580 FOR IX=1 TO 1.5
590 VDU19,IX,(CX+IX)MOD3+FX:0:
600 NEXT
610 CX=(CX+1)MOD3
620 NEXT
630 PRINTTAB(7,30): "HIT A KEY"
640 G$=GET$: GOTO70
1000 MODE1
1010 VDU5
1020 GCOLOR,RND(3)
1030 SX=400
1040 VDU29,640: 5121
1050 MOVE0,0
1060 FOR A=0 TO 33 STEP0.1
1065 GCOLOR,RND(3)
1070 DRAW 5*X*SIN(A*20),5*X*COS(A)
1080 NEXT
1090 PRINTTAB(7,30): "HIT A KEY"
1100 G$=GET$: GOTO70
1500 MODE5
1530 VDU19,3,4,0,0,0
1540 T=0
1550 S=10000
1560 H=1.732*9/2
1570 REPEAT
1580 B=S-T*250
1590 U=H*T/4
1600 X=100+250*T/2
1610 Y=U/2+100
1620 PROCT(X,Y,B,T MOD 3+1)
1630 T=T+1
1640 UNTIL T>0
1650 B$=GET$: GOTO 70
1660 DEFPROC(X,Y,1,c)
1700 LOCAL h
1710 GCOLOR,c
1720 h=1.732/2
1730 MOVEX,Y
1740 DRAW X+1,Y
1750 DRAW X+1/2,Y+1
1760 DRAW X,Y
1770 ENDPROC
2000 MODE2
2010 VDU29,640: 5121
2020 MOVE0,FNF(0)*500
2030 FOR A=0 TO 360
2040 MOVE0,0
2050 GCOLOR,RND(7)
2060 DRAW SIN(RAD(A))*FNF(A),COS(RAD(A))*FNF(A)
2070 NEXT A
2075 G$=GET$: GOTO 70
2080 END
2090 DEF FNF(X)=500*SIN(RAD(X*0))
2500 MODE2
2510 VDU29,640: 5121
2520 RX=512: CX=1
2530 AX=10
2540 MOVE RX,0
2550 REPEAT
2560 MOVE0,0
2570 GCOLOR,CX
2580 PLOT 85,COS(RAD(AX*2))*RX+5,SIN(RAD
   (AX*2))*RX+5
2590 CX=CX MOD 3+1
2600 AX=AX+10
2610 RX=RX-4
2620 UNTIL RX<0
2630 G$=GET$: GOTO70
3000 MODE2
3010 DRAW0,400: DRAW0,800: DRAW600,800: GCOLOR,
   9: PLOT85,0,400: MOVE1200,800: DRAW1200,
   400: GCOLOR,11: PLOT85,600,800: MOVE1200,400:
   DRAW1200,0: DRAW600,0: GCOLOR,14: PLOT85,1
   200,400: MOVE0,0: DRAW0,400: GCOLOR,12: PLOT85,
   600,0
3020 PRINTTAB(5,2): "GRAPHICS DEMO."
3030 PRINTTAB(6,17): "GOODBYE!"
3040 PROC F
3050 DEFPROC F: RESTORE4000: FOR IX=0 TO 13: READM1,
   M2: SOUND2,-13,M1,M2: SOUND3,-13,
   M1+48,M2: SOUND2,-13,M1+96,M2: SOUND&1001,
   0,0,0: NEXT: ENDPROC
3060 DEFPROC F2: RESTORE5000: FOR IX=0 TO 13: READM1,
   M2: SOUND2,-13,M1,M2: SOUND1,-13,M1+48,M2:
   SOUND2,-13,M1+96,M2: SOUND&1001,0,0,0: NEXT:
   ENDPROC
4000 DATA81,4,77,4,81,4,61,4,81,4,77,4,81,4,61,
   4,33,4,33,4,41,4,41,4,49,4,49,4,
   49,4,41,4,41,4,33,16
5000 DATA 53,4,69,4,81,4,69,4,73,4,61,4,69,0,
   53,4,41,4,25,4,41,4,33,4,49,4,25,0
>5010 END
>VDU3

```

Demos
by Nicholas Short

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OPEN FORUM

Kaleidoscope

on Vic20

Kaleidoscope requires no special graphics or CASR controls. All that needs to be changed are the variables.

TL — top left of VDU; SD — screen depth; SL — screen length; RW — the X;

BD — half density block; OB — filled circles if the space key is pressed then the screen stops. If you press space again it will carry on. If you press s then the program will stop.

```

5 GOTO99
10 POKE36878,15
20 FORT=0T0255
30 POKE36877,T
40 POKE36876,T
50 NEXTT
60 POKE36878,0:POKE36877,0:
   POKE36876,0
70 RETURN
80 POKE36878,15
82 FORT=15T00STEP-3
84 POKE36877,T
85 POKE36876,T
87 NEXTT
89 POKE36878,0:POKE36877,0:
   POKE36876,0
90 RETURN
99 GOSUB10
100 POKE36879,92
110 TL=7680
120 SD=23
130 SL=22
140 TR=TL+(SL-1)
150 BL=TL+((SD-1)*SL)
160 BR=BL+(SL-1)
170 RW=86
180 BD=102
190 OB=90
200 FORX=1TOSD/2
210 PRINT
220 NEXTX
221 GOSUB10
230 PRINTTAB((SL-12)/2)"KALEIDOSCOPE"
240 PRINT:PRINT
260 PRINTTAB((SL-12)/2-1)"
   BY W.R.CLEMENTS"
270 FORX=1TOSD/2
280 PRINT
290 NEXTX
300 FORX=1T01500
310 NEXTX
311 GOSUB10
320 PRINT"DO YOU WANT A NEGATIVEOR
   POSITIVE"
330 PRINT
340 PRINT"KALEIDOSCOPE EFFECT (N/P) ?"
350 FORX=1TOSD/2
360 PRINT
370 NEXTX
380 GETNP$
390 IFNP$="N"THEN420
400 IFNP$="P"THENGOSUB900:GOTO460
410 GOTO380
420 GOSUB900
430 FORNL=TLTOBR
440 POKENL,RW
450 NEXTNL
460 FORPL=TLTOTR
470 POKEPL,BD
480 NEXTPL
490 FORPL=TLTOBLSTEPSTL
500 POKEPL,BD
510 POKEPL+(SL-1),BD
520 NEXTPL
530 FORPL=BLTOBR
540 POKEPL,BD
550 NEXTPL
560 LC(1)=TL
570 LC(2)=TR
580 LC(3)=BL
590 LC(4)=BR
600 D1(1)=1
610 D1(2)=-1
620 D1(3)=1
630 D1(4)=-1
640 D2(1)=SL
650 D2(2)=SL
660 D2(3)=-SL
670 D2(4)=-SL
680 XX=INT((SL-1)/2)
690 YY=INT((SD-1)/2)
700 GOSUB00:FORX=1T04
710 L2(X)=LC(X)
720 NEXTX
730 X=INT(XX*RND(1)+1)
740 Y=INT(YY*RND(1)+1)
750 FORZ=1T04
760 L2(Z)=L2(Z)+(X*D1
   (Z))+(Y*D2(Z))
770 NEXTZ
780 IFPEEK(L2(1))<>OBTHENC=OB:
   GOTO800
790 CR=RW
800 FORZ=1T04
810 POKEL2(Z),CR
820 NEXTZ
830 GETGG$
840 IFGG$<>" "THEN890
850 GETGG$
860 IFGG$=" "THEN890
870 IFGG$="S"THENGOSUB940:END
880 GOTO850
890 GOTO700
900 GOSUB10:FORX=1TOSD/2
910 PRINT

```

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Teletext Info

This week I would like to float an idea that I have had for some time and maybe get some reaction from readers. As you are aware, the BBC and ITV services transmit teletext called Ceefax and Oracle. The equipment to receive their transmissions is built into the tv receiver, or as an expensive add-on for the BBC micro. It occurred to me that this is an excellent way of

transmitting information; no expensive equipment is required, just your micro and a radio transceiver.

I have been sent a program by Iain Stewart, 17 Torry Drive, Alva, Scotland FK12 5NQ, for the Spectrum called ZXText. It costs £4.95 and allows you to build your own teletext pages. The information on each page is entirely up to the user and graphics are supported.

It is quite simple to build up as many pages as you have memory for with any details you wish. The sort of thing that springs to mind is club details, written information regarding your station and QSL details, even log information. When the pages are written and the program is run, then one can set the clock and the

date, write a contents page and play with the program as much as you like.

The whole thing can be saved to audio tape and then transmitted to your friends either on FM or any other suitable mode. The only stipulation in the licence is to give your call sign at least every 15 minutes in voice. I don't think I've come across a program that takes 15 minutes to send or load, so there's no problem.

When the program is downloaded at the other end, it can be loaded into the micro and the pages displayed. They can then be changed or amended and sent back. Conversations in colour and graphics make RTTY seem old-fashioned. The next stage is to use this system on a Micronet-type

modem system over the air so that the pages can be updated by all those taking part. This is possible on the Spectrum with the arrival of Interface one.

RS232 information can also be passed as easily as any other, providing a modem is used. VHF/FM is more sophisticated than the phone lines and less likely to end up in the "Wargames" situation, unless... well, there are some strange sounds on the airwaves these days.

Ray Berry GW6 JJN

This series of articles is designed for radio and microcomputer enthusiasts alike. If you have any queries that you want answered, hints and tips to share, or topics that you would like to see covered, write to Ray Berry, Microradio, Popular Computing Weekly, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.

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Tony Bridge's Adventure Corner



SAGA

A couple of updates this week, to previous corners. First of all, a clutch of new books about computer-assisted Adventuring have recently been released.

For the Commodore 64 and Vic20, Pete Gerrard, who along with brother Mike, seems sometimes to corner the computer periodicals, has written *Exploring Adventures on the Commodore 64/Vic20*. A cassette of the three full-length programs from the two books are also available.

I haven't seen either yet, but, although the combined price is a little high, Gerrard always makes entertaining reading, so they will be worth investigating.

Aimed at the younger Adventurer and would-be Adventure programmer is *Write Your Own Adventure Programs* by Jenny Tyler and Les Howarth. This is another in Osborne's computer series and covers a wide range of computers.

The book is in large paperback format, with colourful diagrams and clear text. Actually, more experienced programmers would find a lot to interest them here, and

the book is well worth the modest price.

And now an update to the Scott Adams profile. Thanks to the Silica Shop, I have recently seen a SAGA A Scott Adams Graphic Adventure, that is! From the 12 original text Adventures so far available, Adventure International have selected six to enhance with graphics. They are available, on disc, for the Apple and Atari machines.

I have *Pirate Adventure* for review, and, although I haven't seen the original, I believe that the scenario is the same. At the start, the Adventurer finds him/herself in a flat in London, with a few items scattered around, waiting to be picked up. There is a bottle of rum, a pair of sneakers and a sack of crackers.

The scene is depicted graphically in the upper half of the screen (the computer commentary, and your commands take up the lower half, in time-honoured tradition), and as you pick up, or discard, each object, the display is updated accordingly.

Pressing *Enter* clears the picture, the upper area then shows a brief description of the location along with the objects currently there. If you have foolishly forgotten to get a light, it will remain blank, or, even more infuriating, merely show a jumble of letters and symbols.

The graphics, designed by Ad-Venture Graphics, do not always represent the location — you will come across the Pirate's Chest, for instance, and that will be displayed in its full glory. Stumble into a dark place, and two great eyes will blink out of the gloom at you! Ask for an inventory of the objects carried by you, and you will see yourself surrounded by those objects.

The graphics are nicely drawn, but suffer adversely from the USA-UK translation. The different television systems play havoc with some of the colours (orange,

for instance, becomes a vivid pink), and the lower half of the screen, for some reason, flickers alarmingly while processing your input.

All the usual commands are recognised in one or two-word form (for example, "Help", "Take bottle", "Climb stairs" and so on) as well as "Save game". This command allows you to store up to four games on the disc, and resume later in the same point. There is also a script character set available at the touch of a key — this is similar to real "joined-up" writing, but rather difficult to read.

For those of you who have Scott Adams' Adventures No. 1-6, these SAGAs are really a luxury as the actual Adventure is the same. But if you have yet to venture into Adamsworld, the Graphic Adventures are certainly worth including in your library. Unfortunately, it's unlikely that we'll see the programs on home-produced machines — it's a sad fact that no British product, even the mighty Sinclair, is sufficiently popular in the States to interest Adventure International in translating the Adventures.

Another new Spectrum Adventure released in the past couple of weeks is *Graucho*, from Automania. This, as if you didn't know, apart from being the company that perpetrates some excruciating humour on the back of this magazine, also unleashed *Pimania* upon the unsuspecting public. To date, the Golden Sundial is still up for grabs by the first person to crack the secret in the program and turn up at the right place and the right time. There is also a prize to be won in the new Adventure, and that is a trip to Hollywood.

Like *Pimania*, *Graucho* is written in Basic, and the responses are S-L-O-W, rather like watching custard cooling. Also like the previous program, *Graucho* is devoid of violence (except from the player). As far as I've got, the idea seems to be to visit various locations, depicted in lo-res graphics using the Spectrum's coarse character set, and work through the puzzles at each point.

By the time you read this, some of you may have got well into the Adventure, so, if you'd like to share your experiences, write me, c/o PCW.

Finally, my thanks to Ken Bolton, of Yarnton in Oxfordshire. He writes to tell me that anyone who saw *The Omen* on tv recently may now know "the number of the Beast", which is one of the clues *Black Crystal*. For those of you who, like me, couldn't bear to watch, he also suggests looking at Revelations, Chapter 13, verse 18.

This series of articles is designed for novice and experienced Adventurers alike. Each week Tony Bridge will be looking at different Adventures and advising you on some of the problems and pitfalls you can expect to encounter. So, if you have an Adventure you want reviewed, or if you are stuck in an Adventure and cannot progress any further, write to: Tony Bridge, Adventure Corner, Popular Computing Weekly, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.

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FORTH PROBLEMS

Danny Douglas of Valmy Road, Tooting, writes:

Q I have got a *Forth* program for my Spectrum, but am having problems with the manual enclosed, because it does not say much about the language. I wonder if you know of any good books that might help me?

A Steven Vicker's book *Forth Programming* which was used as the Ace manual, is a good introduction, and available separately. Also worth reading is *Discover Forth* by Tom Hogan. This is published by Osborne/McGraw-Hill. Leo Brodie has a book published by Prentice-Hall called *Starting Forth*. And another to look for is *Introduction to Forth* by Ken Knecht.

REBEL KEYS

J. D. Moore of Leigh Way, Weaverham, Northwich, Cheshire, writes:

Q I own a 48K Spectrum, which up until now has worked perfectly. However, recently several keys (B, N, M, and both Enter keys), have started to rebel and hardly ever work. Could you please tell me what is wrong, and how I should go about conquering the problem.

A If your Spectrum is still under guarantee then return it at once to have the keyboard replaced. If it is out of guarantee, then you will have to decide either to get it repaired or else to buy a real keyboard.

The Spectrum keyboard is, in fact, just a larger version of

the ZX81 membrain type, with slightly better keys. What has happened is that one of the contacts has worn. This means that one entire data or address line is either returning wrong values, or no values at all. If you want to try and get it repaired, you might try contacting TV Services, Chesterton Mill, French's Road, Cambridge CB2 3NP — they specialise in repairing ZX81s and ZX Spectrums. You might find though that instead of replacing the existing keyboard that you want to fit a new one. There are several available and they are simple to fit.

If you decide on this option, it might well be worth waiting a little while until a keyboard case is thought out which can accept the Interface 1.

CHEAP PRINTER

Mr J. A. Avery of Tudor Drive, Yateley, Hants, writes:

Q I have a 48K Spectrum, and at the moment I am searching for an inexpensive printer. All that seems to be available is the ZX printer which does not have the print quality required, or else the £300-plus units that are too expensive.

A Printers suddenly seem a very popular subject. For your price range there are really only two companies to consider, Seikosha and Epson. Apart from the ZX Printer, the only other very cheap printers are the Amber and the Tandy CGP 115. Neither use full size paper, though the Tandy which uses half the normal size paper does print in four colours. In all these cases a special interface will have to be added to the Spectrum.

For full size letter quality print (will print letters anyway), the three printers to look for are the Seikosha 100, which you might get for as little as £175. The Seikosha 250, which is approximately £250, and the Epson RX80, which is about £250. The early Epson MX80 seems to be fading off the scene, and this is a model that you are most likely to find being sold secondhand. It is important before you buy a printer to think what you want from it. The Epson RX is more flexible when it comes to

print styles, featuring such things as double strike, but it has a fixed tractor feed. The Seikosha comes with a variable feed as standard. This allows you to use different widths of paper — important, if for example, you want to use address labels.

Besides the printer you will need an Interface. On the interface 1 there is an RS232 port. None of these printers has an RS232 as standard. Indeed printers seem to be concentrating on Centronics interfaces. If you have Interface 1 then you will need to get a special RE232 adapter for your printer. This is expensive. I think you might find it cheaper to buy a Centronics Interface for your Spectrum. Kempston and Hilderbray both do one, as does Tasman. ADS do one that incorporates a screen dump and is relocatable. When you buy your printer ensure that you can get a screen dump program for it. The Copy command only works on the ZX Printer.

As well as this you will also have to pay for paper, but this should be under £15 as long as you buy a box of two thousand sheets. So to the cost of the printer you must add the cost of an interface and paper. The other obvious things to think about are a word processing program and a proper keyboard. Indeed if you want to use your Spectrum for word processing I would suggest that you start with a proper keyboard. After several hours the Spectrum keyboard does start to show its limitations.

IN RUSSIAN

David Millar of Park View, Alloway, Strathclyde, writes:

Q I wonder if it is possible that you could tell me where I could purchase software for the Dragon concerning O-Grade (SCEEB) educational software. My computer is the Dragon 32 and I am

interested in Russian, Latin, Greek, Maths and Sciences. O-Level would be a possible substitute.

A I dealt with this only a few weeks ago, in Issue 42. To up-date the information there I can add that Multi-soft systems of 41 Copsleigh Close, Salfords, Redhill, Surrey, also has a Physics and Chemistry tutor available. I do not know specifically whether or not they are compatible with the SCEEB. As yet I have not seen any programs for the languages you want. Like the Spectrum and to a lesser extent the BBC, educational programs are lagging behind other sorts of software.

While up-dating previous answers, I will mention another company who has written to me after I dealt with Business software in September. Transform have written enclosing their catalogue. They are at 41 Keats House, Porchester Mead, Beckenham, Kent. They specialise in Spectrum and ZX81 business software. Their own programs include various day books, analysis, and stock control. All of which come dubbed twice on a cassette, and will Run on full size printers. Besides these they also carry software from Tasman, Video, and Campbell.

DRAGON LIGHT PEN

P Peters of Winemat Close, Hanslope, Milton Keynes, Bucks, writes:

Q I have a Dragon 32 and am looking for a light pen. I know that I have read about such a thing, and seen advertisements, but now I can't trace when or where I heard about it. Can you give me the address of someone who can supply one?

A I can only think of one and that is by Microdeal, whose address is 41 Truro Road, St Austell, Cornwall PL25 5JE.

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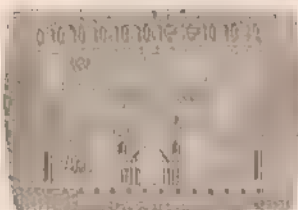
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VIC20 for sale plus cassette unit, Star Battle cartridge and joystick, tapes and magazines, all boxed as new and all under guarantee, £110 ono. Tel: Kingswinford 271202

ORIGINAL VIC20 SOFTWARE, 23 games, plus joystick, worth over £180, will sell together for £80. Tel: Bill Day 01-864 3350

VIC20 STARTER KIT, including C2N cassette unit, introduction to Basic 1 games cassettes plus Golf cartridge plus joystick, £200, want £105 ono. Tel: 061-439 8152

VIC20 SOFT SWITCH, Never used, £18. Tel: Aldridge 51923

VIC20 STARTER PACK including one game. Brand new, perfect condition, £100. Tel: 01-882 1545

16K VIC20 plus C2N plus £150 of software plus books plus joysticks, £200. Tel: J. Massey, Southampton 437821

VIC20, manual + learners book, 16K Ram pack, 24 games, joystick + tape recorder, perfect condition, £185 or any near offer. Tel: 061-881 4133

VIC, from Ram with 3K Ram, £20 + adventure cartridge, £5. Tel: 0383-734731

Dragons for sale

DRAGON 32 with joystick and software including Chess cartridge. Sell for £160 or swap for Spectrum 48K including software. Tel: (0480) 64377 after 8pm

DRAGON 32 plus joysticks, cassette and recorder. Over £100 of software including Donkey King, Katerpillar Attack etc. Many Dragon magazines and book, worth over £350. Sell for £240. Tel: Bedford 57407

DRAGON 32 Pirmania, Invaders Revenge, Madness and the Minotaur, Defender, Phantom Slayer, Toolkit, Computavoica, Gallop Island, Alcatraz, Wizard War, Dragon Trek, Ali £50 each plus two joysticks £10.50. Apply 72 Southdown Road, Yarmouth

DRAGON 32 Boxed joysticks, books and the latest software plus two cartridges worth over £280, will accept £160 one Tel: Kings Lynn 71493

DRAGON 32 and 1 joystick, software magazines (Dragon User) cassette recorder, software tapes including The King, Frogger, Shuttle, Dragon Trek, Nightlight, all leads 2 months old, excellent condition. £195 one Tel: Stevenage 355256

DRAGON SOFTWARE, The King, Invaders Revenge, Shuttle, Storm, Space War, Planet Invasion, Katerpillar, Cosmic Zap, Star Trek, Wizard War, Mixed Out, Backgammon and more, £4.50 each Tel: evenings 0306 731002

DRAGON 32, boxed, as new, all leads, all Dragon Users, books, magazines, cassettes (Frogger and Champions), cost £230, quick sale £145 one. Phone Northwood (Middle) 28204 anytime

DRAGON SOFTWARE, swap or sell, many games, including Vultures, Crusader, Donkey King, Defender etc. Also one pair Dragon joysticks, £9. Tel: Peter Mold (0352) 59854. Mold, Chwyd, North Wales

DRAGON TAPE COPIER wanted for machine code and basic programs to make back-up of original programs on tape please 32 The Firs, Mold, Chwyd, North Wales. Tel: Peter (0352) Mold 59884

DRAGON 32, perfect condition, boxed, as new, still under guarantee, plus software and joystick, £120 one or swap for a Lynx 48K. Tel: Barnes 741 7824 (after 5 pm)

DRAGON 32, joysticks, over £60 of latest software, Microdeal etc + Enter The Dragon, Know Your Dragon and three Dragon User magazines, worth over £260, bargain at £135 one. Tel: Leeds 105321 852259

DRAGON 32, boxed with leads, two joysticks, tape recorder, dust cover, approx £100 worth of software and magazines. Worth £280, sell for £180. Tel: Wickford 65245

DRAGON 32 + books + £450 worth of software + joysticks, £150 one Tel: 0245 329869

DRAGON 32 + joysticks and £160 of games, £200 one Tel: 01-518 1788 (evenings only)

DRAGON 32, nine months old, much software, light pen, joysticks, still under guarantee, many books, value £475, accept £240. Tel: 0634 270317

DRAGON 32, boxed completely, with joysticks + £100 of games. Sell for £170 Tel: 021 360 1678

DRAGON 32, with joysticks, tape recorder, books, magazines and over £300-worth of software, including Donkey King and Ninja Warrior, all for £160 one. Tel: (0900) 3607

FOR SALE, Dragon 32K, includes over £160 of software, also joysticks, books and manuals, sell for £300 - in mint condition or swap for Spectrum 48K with similar accessories. Tel: 051-430 674

DRAGON 32, manual joysticks, leads, etc. plus £70- of software, including Ring of Darkness, Katerpillar, Planet Invasion - £50 of books, magazines, worth £350. Sell for £200 one Tel: Swansea 041823

DRAGON 32, lots of software, books, tape recorder, sell for £170 Tel: 01-518 1809

DRAGON 32, pair of joysticks £30 + of software, magazines, Dragons tape recorder, all boxed, except speed poke, £170 one Skelmersdale 31786 (after 5 pm)

Ataris for sale

ATARI VCS, five cartridges including Berzerk and Space Invaders joystick and paddles. All excellent condition, only £90 one Write to 18 Burnwars Avenue, Foulridge Colne, Lancs BB8 7NT

ATARI VCS, paddles, joysticks, etc. Space Invaders and Combat cartridges, sell for £50 Tel: 0325 (Darlington) 457407 anytime

ATARI 800 - joystick + Atari Basic cartridge, £210 one Tel: 01-266 8794

ATARI VCS - five cartridges including Space Invaders, Breakout, £60 or swap for ZX printer, paper, Hobbit (+ book) or Vahalla or Interface 1 and microdrive or interface 2 and money. Tel: (021) 7723873

ATARI VCS, live cartridges, including Berzerk and Space Invaders, joysticks and paddles, all excellent condition only £70 Write to 18 Burnwars Avenue, Foulridge, near Colne Lancs BB8 7NT See please

ATARI 400, only four months old, includes Basic programming kit, also Glaxiana cartridge and one joystick, sell for £120 Tel: Romford 89591

ATARI VCS, joysticks, paddles, 10 cartridges including Pacman, Berserk, StarMaster, AstroDroids, Indy 500, Space Invaders etc. £125 Tel: 061 653 7815

Wanted

SWAP VIC20 or cassette software. Tel: 0602 324376 Wednesday evenings or all day Saturday or 0602 329528 any other time

4K GRAPHIC ROM plus software for ZX81, £15, also will swap original Spectrum cassettes for hi-sof Pascal Write to: Clive Palmer, 7 Turner Road, Norwich NR2 4HD

WANT CARTRIDGES for Colevision, preferably Turbo and Intellivision games systems. 01-764 4075

SWAP £260 worth of s/w, individually or total lot Tel: 01-748 8178

WANTED Arlon expansion for a Vic20 (broken) Tel: 041-332 1488

WANTED for Spectrum Printer, TV sound adaptor, light pen, Wye Valley compiler Tel: Tom 031-441 3066 evenings

SPECTRUM software swap I have Vu-tile Vu-cak, Vu-3D, Flight Simulation 48K Chess, Swap for Insof Pascal, Abersoft Forth Hobbit Offers to Phil Wade, Morgan Hall, The Lawns, Coltingham, N. Humberdale

WANTED 64K Ram pack for ZX81 Tel: Mr Leese 0753 74111

SWAP Flight Simulator ZX81 cassette, perfect condition, or sell. Offers to Mr Leese, 30 Grainger Close Basingstoke, Hants, RG22 4DY Tel: 0753 74111

84K ZX81, will buy or swap my 16K ZX81 with cash difference Tel: 0753 74111, Mr Leese

SWAP SPECTRUM games Inc Game Designer, worth £84, for complete BMX wheels or sell for £35, Tel: Great Harwood 884 786

WANTED Spectrum 48K - any s/w. Lohitscha, 44 Aberdeen Road, St Denys, Southampton

SPECTRUM 48K with or without s/w and accessories. 01-624 5797

WANTED T1 memory expansion, 2 Atari UCS joysticks, mini memory module editor, assembler - Funnels Doom module Steven ■ Beaconsfield (04946) 6609

SWAP Spectrum 48K + printer + s/w for Onic 48K with s/w. Tel: 01-998 6065

WANTED, Sinclair ZX81 or equivalent Tel: Stuart, Truro 78932 (day), Tregary 210 (evenings)

WANTED, ZX81 with instructions (London area) Tel: 01-505 3819 evenings only

SWAP, Commodore Adventureland and Pirate Cove adventure games for any other cartridges for the Vic20 Tel: 031-339 2000 Alexander Sibbald

WANTED, Aoborn, Power Blaster, etc, for Lynx. Will swap for Invaders or pay £3 each Tel: Twyford (Hants) 713771

WANTED, EG2000 colour game plus some good software to swap for 48K Spectrum plus quickshot joystick and over £100 of best games. Will swap for best offer Tel: Newmarket 741786

SWAP "WCA CURSE" (48K Spectrum) and 3D-Tanx or cruising for any of level 8's adventures 61 Bryngwyn Road, Golen, Llanelli, Dyfed, South Wales Tel: (05542) 78159 after 4 pm

SWAP MY ATARI 400 32K with Basic, recorder joysticks, keyboard books and software plus £200 racer for Commodore 64 and disk drive, other swaps considered Tel: 7777

WANTED 48K SPECTRUM and tape recorder. Write to J.R.O. Trevor Eves, Alpha 28, Kelly Squadron HMS Mercury, Leyland, Petersfield, Hants

SWAP PIRATE COVE and Mission Impossible for any other Scott Adams adventure game series Tel: 0924 471097

SWAP CB, microphone SWR, matcher, wallup talkie, voice controller, loy van and radio controlled robot for any good computer and accessories, except ZX81. Ace Write with your offer to Alan Jones, 33 Bishop Road, Ammanford, Dyfed SA18 3BH

WANTED ZX81 for beginner, nothing fancy wanted, some software but not essential. Phone after 6 pm 031-336 4372

SPECTRUM 16K wanted Tel: Leigh Valley (0992) 715662

SPECTRUM SOFTWARE for swap Black Crystal, Horace Goes Skiing, Planet of Deam and other adventure and arcade games. Phone Andy on Melton Mowbray 62644

SPECTRUM SOFTWARE to swap Black Crystal, Do Not Pass Go, High Noon, others or will sell. Send your list to Keith Burton 6 Westbourne Terrace, Barmley, South Yorkshire S70 6HP

SWAP VIC20 Dotman and Pirate Cove adventure cartridge and games book for 16K Ram pack (will swap separated) Tel: (0743) 69249 evenings

SWAP SPECTRUM SOFTWARE, M code 1648 K, Ant Attack 48K or English Literature 1648K, Phone Bristol (0272) 569599 accept for Nick

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WANTED, US Spectrum or WHY. Must be complete and cheap. Telephone Abingdon 834613

SWAP RADOPIN COLOUR TV GAME with four cartridges, for ZX Spectrum 1 Stanley Street, Lower Pissley, nr Chesterfield, Derbyshire Tel: 853144

SWAP ZX81 and 16K Ram with all leads and manual for ZX printer with paper or sell for £30 Tel: 868 6694

SWAP PIRATE COVE (Vic20) for Mission Impossible, Voodoo Castle or The Count. Phone 0621 741221 between 6 and 9 pm ask for Ian

COMMODORE 64 cassette unit needed, will pay £15. Tel: 0889 270920 (Western) nr Stafford

WANTED, ZX81 and accessories, working or not working Tel: 01-882 0469 (Ian)

WANTED, 48K Spectrum, will pay £80-£70 Harpenden 69152

WANTED, BBC software to swap. Harpenden 69152

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TANDY MODEL 100 portable computer, £400 Tel: 0455 611479, Mr Bradshaw

TANDY CGP 115 Colour Graphic Plotter/Printer + new pens, 1 two new rolls of paper, £125 one Also Dragon to Centronics Printer cable, £12 Tel: Northampton (0604) 28315 evenings Ask for David

TANDY CGP-115 Colour Graphic Printer/Plotter, plus connection lead for Dragon 32, £105 Tel: Trevor Watton 881031

APPLE II COMPUTER 48K, £200 Tel: 01-551 2947 (any time)

VIDEO GENIE with £250 of software, books and magazines, £190 one Tel: 0275 822145 (Bristol)

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BBC MODEL "A" plus Epson printer, £100 worth of software, worth £470, quick sale £150 Tel: Hornchurch 57881 after 6 pm

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BBC MODEL B, complete with much software including Meteors, Killer Gorilla, Defender, and many more. Also one book, 1-2 OS bargain at £370 Tel: 01-599 4085 after 6 pm

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BBC BCPL, Spy, Beebeal (Roms), two joysticks, Starship Command, Iun games, Atlantis, + £200 software, all for £125. Tel: Harpenden 69152. 48K Spectrum also wanted, will pay £60-£70.

For sale

TRS 80 16K extended basic colour computer + manuals, joysticks, leads and cassette games, worth £420, accept £210, as new condition. Tel: 07737 69726.

BINATONE TV GAME and instructions, 11 computer magazines, £40 worth for £15 including Your Computer and C.V.G. Write to Mr D Appleton, 9 Corinella Road, Highridge, Somerset TA9 3DX.

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DRAGON 32, under guarantee, software joysticks, magazines worth £100. £225 only. Tel: Tadworth 3349.

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SHARP MZ80K computer, 48K, in excellent condition, hardly used, over 150 games and utilities, £325. Tel: Bexleyheath (011) 303 4173, evenings only.

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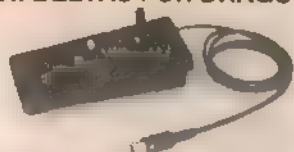
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NEW RELEASES

CIRCUIT BREAK



Nice idea for a game this; *Transistor's Revenge* is a high speed 'battle it out' program set inside your beloved BBC

Micro. The CPU, all knowing, all seeing, heart of your machine, is threatened by the envious glances of other, lesser components — revolution is in the air and down the solder tracks they are rushing ever-onward.

Your task is to repel the usurpers by firing pulses of electricity down the appropriate track. It's finger twitching stuff trying to get to the right track in time.

Limited help is at hand in the form of useful household tools that appear at the edge of the circuit — hit them for bonuses. An excellent idea well executed — what more could you ask for?

Program *Transistor's Revenge*
Price £6.95
Micro BBC B (A with 32K and 6522)
Supplier Softspot
29 South Crescent
Prittlewell
Southend SS2 6TB

ET TU BRUTE?

Caesar the Cat is the first arcade game from Mirrorsoft, the software house spin-off from the famous tabloid.

The game is wonderful, with some of the best graphics yet seen on the Commodore 64. Caesar himself is so beautifully animated only the most stoney hearted could fail to yield a sigh of delight.

But enough of this twee stuff. Caesar is a working cat

and as such his task is to rid the larder of various mice that are devouring its contents.

You move Caesar from shelf to shelf trying to catch the mice, but being careful not to knock over the various valuable ornaments that are also (rather stupidly) kept there.

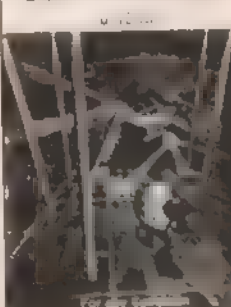
A marvellous, truly addictive, game which also manages to be original, it has few peers. Oh yes, the soundtrack music is great too.

Program *Caesar The Cat*
Price £8.95
Micro Commodore
Supplier Mirrorsoft
The Mirror Group
Holborn Circus
London EC1P 1DO

SPEEDWAY STAR

3D MICROMEGA

DEATHCHASE



Micromega's *Luna Crabs* was a high quality 3D program that should have sold well.

The author of *Luna Crabs* M J Escourt has now released a follow-up called *Death Chase*. Basically this uses the same 3D techniques

in a bike race game.

You can just see the front of your bike and, from the distance, rushing towards you, various trees; the 3D effect being used very convincingly to create the illusion of swerving through a dense forest.

Your bike is armed with photon guns (it would not, therefore, get a licence) and there are various baddie objects for you to obliterate. It's exciting stuff very well done.

Program *Deathchase*
Price £6.95
Micro Spectrum 48K
Supplier Micromega
230-236 Lavender Hill
London SW11 1LE

WRATH OF KARN

White Crystal is a graphic adventure game without text. If that sounds odd, just imagine an arcade game that takes a while to play and is chock full of adventure ideas.

The game, for the Dragon 32, places you in the world of the Karn — gentle wizards who walked the earth 10,000 years before mankind existed.

Naturally, were this happy state to have remained, *White Crystal* would not be much of a game (can you walk around the world with the gentle wizards? — an all action wander. Not too catchy, but thence came Scard Lord of the Night).

You must enter the pits of Karn and ascend various ladders collect items like food, gold and a sword with which to smash the white crystal (source of Scard's power). If you can master all the screens of ladders without getting

blasted by Scard's Laser, you will eventually come across the crystal itself.

Program *White Crystal*
Price £6.99
Micro Dragon 32
Supplier Romik Software
272 Argyl Avenue
Slough, Berks

MERGATROIDS



Abacus Software has returned after what appears to be months of silence with four new games for the Spectrum.

Munnery's Mergatroids is a 3D space shoot out. The plot is simple — kill everything in sight. There are five different kinds of alien and seven zones through which you must pass.

Like some of Artic's 3D efforts the aliens are drawn in hi-res outline only — imagine a sort of Asteroids as seen from the vantage point of the spacecraft.

It looks quite impressive but I found the 3D fairly baffling — I got confused as to how

actually have as much memory as the Spectrum. Consequently, there is less room for the graphics. Mutt that situation over for a while.

Ponder also the fact that all the most innovative stuff crops up first on the Spectrum (how long before the first non-Spectrum version (Commodore 64 I would guess) of *Valhalla* turns up — four or five months at least, I'll bet) — Why?

Program *The Hobbit*
Price £14.95
Micro BBC B
Supplier Melbourne House
131 Trafalgar Road
London SE10

SMAUG JOINS THE BEEB

The Hobbit is now available on the BBC. The game which, until the advent of *Valhalla* was considered the ultimate adventure game on the Spectrum has been adapted for a number of other micros.

I doubt that there is much point in my summarising the game, except to say that it is a superb adventure with marvellous graphics — it has assumed the status of a cult on the Spectrum.

Perhaps it's worth a passing word or two on the various versions available. All are ex-

cellent but, curiously enough, the BBC one is not one of the best — the Spectrum one is far better. Why?

The reason, simply enough, is that despite the fact that the BBC B has lots of ports and a real keyboard and is the love of the DoE's life, it doesn't



near the baddies were, consequently I am unable to describe the later levels of the game.

Program Munnery's Mergatroids
Price £5.50
Micro Spectrum 48K
Supplier Abacus Programs
716 Liangyielach Road
Tredoth
Swansea SA5 9EL

BATTERED FROG



Releasing yet another Spectrum version of *Frogger* is either foolishness or confidence; I assume here that it is the latter since PSS has not, in the past, offered much evidence of insanity.

The game has all the features of the arcade original, including the neat touch of an ambulance which rushes up to take your battered frog to hospital after he is splattered by some car or truck.

Other than that, it's very much like all the other versions of the game. In fact, it bears a curious resemblance to one which was published in *Your Computer* several months ago. The same author?

Program Hopper
Price £6.95
Micro Spectrum
Supplier Personal Software Services
452 Stoney Stanton Road
Coventry CV6 5DG

COTTON SOCKS

Espionage is a straightforward text adventure written in Basic for the Dragon 32.

Ordinarily that would be

enough for me to cast the game away forever, but the plot has a few nice touches.

For one thing you are a baddie, a commie infiltrator, redder than red right down ■ your little cotton socks.

Hoping to spread your evil creed across the democratic face of the western alliance, you have been set the task of entering GC HQ undetected (I should apply for a job there, that's how everybody else does it). Once in, you must find a list of western agents and get out safely. Karla will love it.

Program Espionage
Price £4.95
Micro Dragon 32
Supplier Exodus Software
36 Penrice Drive
Tividale
Worley
West Midlands
B69 1UQ

HIDDEN WORDS



Word Feud is a puzzle program for the Commodore 64. Based closely on the popular word puzzles, your task is to discover a hidden word within ■ screenful of jumbled letters.

The two-player version involves moving windows around the screen to be the first to find the hidden word. Because of the computer might accidentally throw up meaningful words where none were intended, all the hidden ones are paired — both must be found.

Program Word Feud
Price £7.95
Micro Commodore 64
Supplier Audiogenic
PO Box 88
Reading
Berks

3D SHAPES

Graphics Package from Dream Software is a useful utility for the Oric and Spectrum.

Although there are a number of similar packages available for both machines, this one does seem to have a few more features than most.

Aside from the usual options for cursor movement, change colours, fill in and the like, there are routines to construct simple 3D shapes, like cubes and rectangles. The program, which comes with an instruction booklet, retails for a very reasonable £4.50.

Program Graphics Package
Price £4.50
Micro Spectrum/Oric (48K)
Supplier Dream Software
PO Box 64
Basingstoke
Hants

GENTLE INTRO

Pawn Chess is a gentle introduction to one aspect of conventional chess as well as a useful way for experienced chess players to improve their pawn game.

As the name suggests, the game is simply chess played only with pawns. The all machine code program calculates its moves in one fifth of a second, so no tedious waiting for a response.

The game also features an on screen clock for timing and includes a history of chess.

Program Pawn Chess
Price £4.95
Micro Spectrum 48K
Supplier Contrast Software
Farnham Road
West Liss
Hants GU33 6JU

BIRDMEN

Program Power is one of the top five BBC houses. Not surprising then that they should start to adapt their games to run on the Electron.

Swoop is a good quality version of *Galaxians* and indeed all those other arcade games that feature wave upon wave of baddies battering a laser base.

In this case you must fight off swooping birdmen who attack in eight phases, each more difficult than the last —

can your nerves stand it?

Program Swoop
Price £7.95
Micro Electron
Supplier Micro Power
88a Regent Street
Chapel Allerton
Leeds LS7 4PE

VICIOUS BATS



Transylvanian Tower is probably the most successful of all Richard Shepherd's adventure games — it was in the Spectrum charts regularly for several weeks.

The game is now available on the Dragon 32. Aim of the game is to find your way through a tower picking up useful objects as you go to your ultimate objective — to kill Count Dracula.

The game uses a 'hunt the Wumpus' format — simple 3D graphics draw the rooms in the tower and you must memorise a map to successfully find your way through to the exit on each level. The later levels include vicious vampire bats who can suck your blood. Very creepy.

Program Transylvanian Tower
Price £6.50
Micro Dragon 32
Supplier Richard Shepherd Software
Elm House
23-25 Elmshott Lane
Cippenham
Slough
Berks

New Releases is designed to let people know what software is coming on to the market. If you have a new game or utility which you are about to release send a copy and accompanying details to New Releases, Popular Computing Weekly, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.

This Week

Program	Type	Micro	Price	Supplier
Alphabet Game	Ed	Spectrum	£7.95	Sinclair
Annihilator	Arc	Commodore 64	£7.95	Mogul
Atk Attack	Arc	Spectrum	£9.50	Ultimate
Bandits	Arc	Electron	£7.95	Program Power
Bank Account	Ut	Spectrum	£4.00	K Gouldstone
Battle	S	Spectrum	£5.95	CCS
Besieged	Arc	Spectrum	£4.95	Puffin
Capital Letters	Ed	Spectrum	£7.95	Sinclair
Cargo	Ed	Spectrum	£9.95	Sinclair
Castle Spellermus	Ed	Spectrum	£7.95	Sinclair
Chop Lifter	Arc	Commodore 64	£29.95	Audiogenic
Conqueror	S	Commodore 64	£15.95	Micro Software
Creators Revenge	Arc	Commodore 64	£7.95	Mogul
Croaker	Arc	Electron	£7.95	Program Power
Destiny	Ut	Spectrum	£4.95	4 Sight
Early Punctuation	Ed	Spectrum	£7.95	Sinclair
Escape from Arkon	Arc	Spectrum	£4.95	Puffin
Fallz and the Fruit Monsters	Arc	Electron	£7.95	Program Power
Galaxies	Arc	Commodore 64	£7.95	Solar
Gilder	Ed	Spectrum	£9.95	Sinclair
Graphica	Ed	BBC	£11.50	Acornsoft
Identikit	Ed	Spectrum	£6.95	Stall
Into the Empire	Arc	Spectrum	£4.95	Puffin
Kongo Kong	Arc	VIC20/CBM 64	£6.95	Mogul
Lancer Lord	Arc	VIC20/CBM 64/Spec	£5.99	Rabbit
Learn to read	Ed	Spectrum	£9.95	Sinclair
Magnets	Ed	Spectrum	£9.95	Sinclair
Maths Invaders	Ed	Spectrum	£6.95	Stall
Metamorphosis	Arc	VIC20/CBM 64	£7.95	Mogul
Micro-Prolog	Ut	Spectrum	£24.95	Sinclair
Micros for Children	Ed	Spectrum	£6.95	Stall
Missing Words	Ed	Spectrum	£6.95	Stall
Model 82	Ed	Linux	£6.95	Seven Stars
Money	Ed	Spectrum	£6.95	Stall
Mountains of Ket	Ad	Spectrum	£5.50	Incentive
Munch Man 64	Arc	Commodore 64	£7.95	Solar
1984	S	Spectrum	£5.50	Incentive
Paratroopers	Arc	VIC20/CBM 64/Spec	£5.99	Rabbit
Password	UT	Dragon	£6.95	B Franklin
Pollywag	Arc	VIC20	£6.95	Mogul
Potty Painter	Arc	VIC20/CBM 64/Spec	£5.99	Rabbit
Prisoner	Ad	BBC	£7.95	Database
Railroader	Arc	BBC	£7.95	Stall
Robin to the Rescue	Arc	Commodore 64	£7.95	Solar
Satan's Pendulum	Arc	Spectrum	£9.95	Minaton
Spectrum Screen Editor	Ut	Spectrum	£9.00	K Sheppard
Speech Marks	Ed	Spectrum	£7.95	Sinclair
Sprintyer	Ut	VIC20	£29.95	Micro
Starquiz	Ed	ZXB1	£4.95	Eclipse
Survival	Ed	Spectrum	£9.95	Sinclair
Swoop	Arc	Electron	£7.95	Program Power
The Astrophoe	Ed	Spectrum	£7.95	Sinclair
Time	Ed	Spectrum	£6.95	Stall
Tiny Tutor	Ed	VIC20	£9.95	Micro
Ultima Zone	Arc	Oric	£8.50	Tansoft
Warlock of Fimtop Mountain	Ed	Spectrum	£8.95	Puffin
Zappelin Rescue	Arc	Commodore 64	£17.95	Micro

Key: Ad — adventure/Arc — arcade/Ed — education/
S — strategy/simulation/Ut — utility

Book Ends



POT POURRI

The *Aquarius Program Book* is a standard pot pourri of maze games, versions of *Bomber* and *Space Invaders*, and simple quiz/educational games. It's thin, too, at 92 pages.

Book *The Aquarius Program Book*
Price £4.95
Micro *Aquarius*
Supplier Phoenix Publishing Associates
14 Vernon Road
Bushey
Herts WD2 2JL

Price £5.95
Micro BBC and Electron
Supplier Phoenix Publishing Associates
14 Vernon Road
Bushey
Herts WD2 2JL

GAME PLAY

Ever wondered how computers decide what move to make when they play chess? Ever wondered why it is that they can be unstoppable at checkers but can yet beat the best humans at chess?

You can find some of the answers in *Computer Game Playing*, a collection of very learned articles on just these kinds of subjects.

The book is hardly a light read, a little knowledge of, among other things, symbolic logic, would help. Still, if the subject interests you and you have (a) the time (you'll probably need to read everything at least twice) and (b) £25 (books like this don't come cheap mainly because possible sales are limited) you should find it very interesting.

Book *Computer Game Playing*
Price £25
Micro *General*
Supplier John Wiley & Sons
Baffins Lane
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 1UD

BRAINTEASERS

A nice collection of programs to while away the winter hours in *Brainteasers for the BBC and Electron Computers*.

All the programs are puzzles of one sort or another, some against the computer, some against another player.

The kind of skill you need to master the puzzles varies between sophisticated logical analysis and basic general knowledge. All of the programs are reasonably short and make good use of the BBC's graphics.

Book *Brainteasers for the BBC and Electron Computers*

This Week is a new section that covers all the new software coming on to the home micro market each week. All suppliers should send details of their new programs to: This Week, Popular Computing Weekly, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.

Top 10

- BBC***
- (2) Rocket Raid (Acornsoft)
 - (4) Swoop (Program Power)
 - (1) Planetoids (Acornsoft)
 - (3) Hopper (Acornsoft)
 - (5) Meritons (Acornsoft)
 - (6) Monsters (Acornsoft)
 - (7) Alien Swift (Acornsoft)
 - (8) Missile Base (Acornsoft)
 - (10) Possibility Experiment (Digital Fantasy)
 - (1) Castle of Riddles (Acornsoft)
- *All Model B.
(Figures compiled by Micro Management, Ipswich 0473 59181)

Top 10

- ZXB1***
- (1) OS Scramble (Quicksave)
 - (2) 1K Chess (Antic)
 - (3) City Patrol (Sinclair)
 - (4) Mother Ship (Sinclair)
 - (5) Chess (Quicksave)
 - (6) Defender (Quicksave)
 - (7) Asteroids (Quicksave)
 - (8) Fantasy (Pison)
 - (9) Space Raiders (Pison)
 - (10) Football Manager (Addictive Games)
- *All run in 16K except where shown
11K
(Figures compiled by Webster's Software)

Top 10

- Dragon 32**
- (5) Ring of Darkness (Wintersoft)
 - (4) The King (Microdeal)
 - (2) Menet Out (Quicksave)
 - (8) Drone (Cable)
 - (6) Champions (Pison)
 - (1) Frogger (Microdeal)
 - (7) Empire (Shards)
 - (3) Space War (Microdeal)
 - (9) Planet I (Shards)
 - (10) Pettigrew's Diary (Figures compiled by Webster's Software)

Top 10

- VIC20**
- (1) Wizard and the Princess (Melbourne House)
 - (2) Wacky Walters (Imagine)
 - (3) Panic (Bug-Byte)
 - (4) Arcadia (Imagine)
 - (5) Sphynx (Quicksave)
 - (6) Catcha Snatcha (Imagine)
 - (7) Bonzo (Audiogenic)
 - (8) Super Screen (Audiogenic)
 - (9) Switched (Imagine)
 - (10) Matrix (Lamasoft)
- (Figures compiled by Webster's Software)

Atari

- (1) Zaxxon (Datasoft)
 - (2) Poyon (Datasoft)
 - (3) Planet Fall (Infoborn)
 - (4) Arcade Machine (Broderbund)
 - (5) Preppie (Adventure International)
 - (6) Ultima II (Sierra on Line)
 - (7) Miner 2049er (Big Five)
 - (8) Zork II (Infocom)
 - (9) Savage Pond (Infocom)
 - (10) Helicat Ace (Microprose)
- 123K cassette; 32K disc; 148K disc; Miner 2049er.
(Figures compiled by Celisio Computers, Birmingham 021-632 6458)

Books

- (1) Advanced User Guide for the BBC Micro, Bray, Dickens and Holmes (Cambridge Micro Centre)
 - (5) One Hundred Programs for the BBC Micro, Gordon (Prentice-Hall)
 - (3) 30 Hour Basic, Paghore (NCL)
 - (2) Commodore 64 Programmers Reference Guide, Commodore (Commodore)
 - (4) Supercharge Your Spectrum, Webb (Melbourne House)
 - (6) Spectrum Hardware Manual, Dickens (Melbourne House)
 - (7) Assembly Language Programming for the BBC Micro, Gilmour (Macmillan)
 - (8) Using the 64, Gernert (Macmillan)
 - (9) BBC Micro — an Expert Guide, Jones (Macmillan)
 - (10) Advanced Graphics for the ZX Spectrum, Angell and Jones (Watford Technical Books, Watford 0923 23333)
- (Last week's position in brackets)

Spectrum

- (3) Lunar Jetman (Ultimate)
 - (2) Jungle Trouble (Durell)
 - (5) Bugaboo (Quicksave)
 - (4) Scribbles (Sinclair)
 - (1) Zip Zap (Imagine)
 - (8) Zoom (Imagine)
 - (7) Hobbit (Sinclair)
 - (6) Countabout (Audiogenic)
 - (10) Marie Miner (Bug Byte)
 - (1) 3D Ant Attack (Quicksave)
- 48K
(Figures compiled by W H Smith and Son, London)

Ziggurat



Ideal language

I have always been interested in microcomputer languages and their evolution. Over the coming weeks I hope to give a personal view of the direction they are taking.

For the purposes of this series, I will define the perfect language in terms of what it will do. It will allow the programmer to translate algorithms and ideas into computer executable form with the minimum of effort, maximum speed of execution, and in such a way that the program is understandable to other readers.

This week, I'll examine how far Forth comes to reaching these ideals. In case I offend any Forth fanatics, I should point out that I am searching for an ideal language which does not exist, so just about every language will come in for criticism. The threaded interpretive concept is undoubtedly elegant, but I can only see two distinct advantages: speed and compactness. However, a decent compiler for another high level language should be able to exceed Forth's speed, mostly due to the overhead attached to each Forth word.

Forth is not particularly compact, if you include the source code to a word. In addition, since the identifier linked to each word is stored in the object code, it is far longer than needed.

The most pertinent objections to Forth are the impenetrability of source code and the use of reverse polish notation. I am not too bothered about it being difficult to learn, because I will always maintain that a thing can be hard to learn but easy to use.

The unreadability of source programs seems to be due to the odd names given to words, which is a quirk of history, and to the use of reverse polish notation. I imagine Forth uses RPN to allow efficient programs to be written. However, nowadays many properly written compilers will generate code at least as efficient.

To sum up, Forth appears to have been written to get around the lack of good compilers for better languages — a lack which has since disappeared. Witness the number of arcade games written in Forth, purely because it is the only high level language with a decent execution speed.

However, Forth has two valuable features which it would be nice to have in our ideal language: user extensibility and a powerful immediate mode. While it can be argued that functions and procedures (statements) can be defined in Pascal (and BBC Basic), this is not really satisfactory, since they are only two of the elements that go to make up programs. The immediate mode cannot be used with all languages, but at the very least, the ideal language should be available in both interpretive and compiled forms.

One other bad feature of Forth is the lack of data types. Admittedly though, it is nice in some applications to treat everything as 16 bit words, but other applications often require data types. Thus the ideal language should be typed, but not as loosely as Forth.

A nice feature is the stack. However, a single stack is not really enough for many graphics and language applications. So, lets give our language multiple user defined stacks.

Forth is extremely easy to implement, since only a small part of the language need to be written in the machine language of the host machine. So, it may be a good language in which to write the compiler and interpreter for our new language.

Modern implementations of Forth offer multi-tasking — the execution of more than one set of words at the same time. This concept can be refined for our ideal language. There are at least two ways of implementing multi-tasking. One is to have multiple program counters executing different parts of the same program. However, this can cause problems since each program counter needs local variables.

It would probably be quite unwieldy to declare the variables, so I am not in favour of this solution. However, in a multi-user application, this method is fine, since all variables can be local to a particular program counter. But, this does not allow communication between program counters, which is necessary for multi-tasking. So, I am more in favour of implementing multi-tasking by allowing separate programs to run concurrently, sharing data in a defined way, such as via an equivalent of the resident integer variables of BBC Basic.

Jeremy Ruston

Puzzle

Along the lines

Puzzle No 84

"But it won't do!" exclaimed the prime minister of Primordia, as he examined his new telephone number. "It's not prime!"

This domestic disaster highlighted the importance of prime numbers to the citizens of Primordia — a land where such numbers were held in the highest esteem, and where it had even been suggested that the Primordian year should consist of 367 days in order that it should be prime.



It was the chancellor of the exchequer that came to the rescue. "On the contrary," he replied, "Your new number is quite exceptional: each digit is prime — because we allow 1 to be classed as prime, any two adjacent digits also form prime numbers, as do any three consecutive digits and also any four consecutive digits."

"In fact, it is the largest number which has this property."

This seemed to satisfy the prime minister who, much mollified, agreed to keep his new number.

What was his new telephone number?

Solution to Puzzle No 79

The program finds the total number of images, N , by looping, adding one to N each time. A running total of the number of pieces of type used is kept by T .

When both N and T are perfect squares they are printed out.

```
79 LET T = 0
80 LET N = 1
81 LET NS = STR$ N
82 LET T = T + LEN NS
83 LET S = VAL STR$(SQRT T)
84 IF S * S = T THEN
85   IF S - INT S = 0 AND P - INT P = 0 THEN PRINT N, T
86 LET N = N + 1
87 GOTO 80
```

After $N = 144$, the next possible set of values is $N = 1089$ and $T = 3249$. After that, $N = 8849$ and $T = 33489$.

A book of 8649 pages is a very large title indeed, so the correct answer is: a book of 1089 pages (33²), which needed 3249 pieces of type (57²) to number it.

Winner of Puzzle No 79

The winner is: D Bell, Swannells Wood, Studham, Beds, who receives £10.

they seem to breed like rabbits.



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MY SIGNATURE

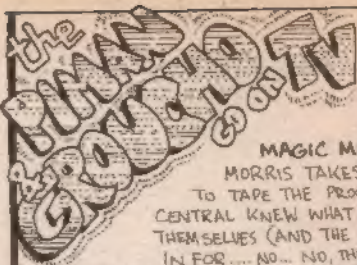
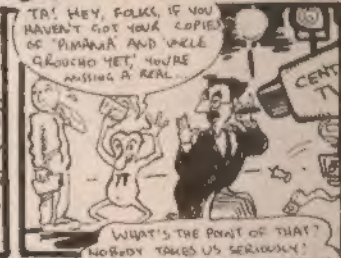
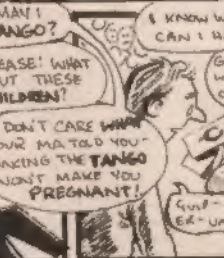
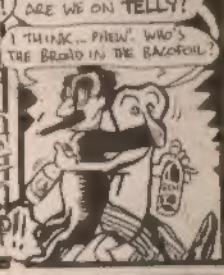
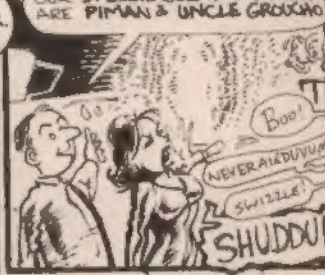
MY NAME

MY ADDRESS

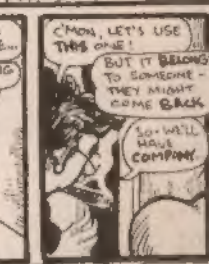
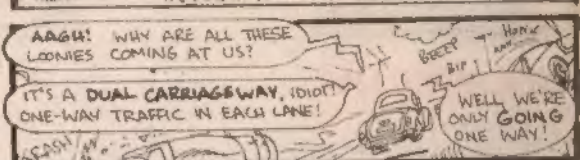
POST CODE

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IN THE STUDIO CONTROL ROOM



DOUBTLESS DUE TO SOME ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR, OUR PALS ARE INVITED TO APPEAR ON CENTRAL TV'S TEATIME COMPUTER SHOW, THE MAGIC MICRO MISSION (NUMBER 5). MORRIS TAKES THEM TO THE STUDIOS TO TAPE THE PROGRAMME. I WONDER IF CENTRAL KNEW WHAT THEY WERE LETTING THEMSELVES (AND THE REST OF THE COUNTRY!) IN FOR... NO... NO, THEY COULDN'T HAVE...



AUTOMATA... "we put some TING in computing"

